

Re: CASC Conference Theme: "Evolving relationships between co-operatives and government".

Co-operative sustainability impeded by state/corporate unsustainable practices.

Joan Russow, Ph.D.

-Author of the Charter of Obligations- 350 pages of obligations incurred, through treaties, conventions, and covenants; commitments made through Conference Action Plans, Declarations, and Resolutions

- Former Lecturer, Global Issues in Sustainability, University of Victoria

In collaboration with a Filmmaker, working on three videos of the 2008 Ciriec Conference, the ICA Riva dal Garda Conference, and the ICA Lisbon Exhibition. In collaboration with the filmmaker, will be incorporating the ideas from this paper into a film,

Co-operatives and Compliance: Counterpoint to Capitalism

For further information contact: Joan Russow at 1-250-294-1339, or jrussow@gmail.com

NOTE that at the CASC presentation, images and cartoons were used to illustrate principles of international law related to true sustainability. In this paper, these images and cartoons are only described and then are accompanied by statements from international law

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3-6
1.1 EXPANDED CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY No true sustainability without ending unsustainability.	3-
1.2 AN OPPORTUNITY IN 2009 "A virtuous not vicious cycle" (Joseph Stiglitz, 2008. CIRIEC)	5
1.3 TRUE SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH STATE AND CORPORATE COMPLIANCE WITH OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS True sustainability is a global obligation, not an optional value.	6
2. ICA VALUES AND PRINCIPLES	7
3. IMAGES, CARTOONS, INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS.	8
3.1 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH GLOBAL NORTH/SOUTH EQUITY to provide equal distribution of resources between North and South countries.	8
3.2 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SOCIALLY EQUITABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT to respect labour rights, including fair and just transition; to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment; and to ensure the right to safe and healthy working conditions.	11
3.3 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SOCIAL JUSTICE to ensure the right to development and social justice; to guarantee social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage, right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system	13
3.4 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES to move away from the current model of unsustainable and over-consumptive development. to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, to respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, and to reduce the ecological footprint	18
3.5 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including rights of the child, indigenous rights, rights of migrant workers, civil and political rights.	35
3.6 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PEACE to achieve a state of peace, and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses, and to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Court of Justice.	43
4. CONCLUSION	46

INTRODUCTION

EXPANDED CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY: TRUE SUSTAINABILITY

No true sustainability without ending unsustainability.

A common theme reiterated through conferences such as the 2008 CIRIEC Conference in Seville, the ICA Conference in Riva del Garda, and the ICA Exhibition in Lisbon, was that co-operative enterprises are different from for-profit corporations because co-operatives embody sustainability - economic, social and environmental - and co-operative Social Responsibility (CSR) as defined in the Global 300 ICA Project within a framework of values and principles.

To support this difference, co-operative theorists and practitioners often cite: (i) the adoption, by the ICA, in 1992, of the principle of "sustainable development"; (ii) the drafting of the 1992 co-operative Agenda 21 to complement the United Nations Environment and Development (UNCED), Agenda 21 [Agenda 21 with its over 40 chapters, delineated an expanded notion of sustainable development]; (iii) the establishing of the seven ICA values at the 1995 ICA Conference in Manchester; (iv) the passing of the Sustainability Resolution at the 2006 ICA Conference in Dourdan, and (v) the CSR ("co-operative" social responsibility), advanced through Global 300, launched in 2008 in Lisbon. While the relationship among the private sector, co-operatives and the state was often examined at the above conferences, the impeding, through state/for-profit corporation non-compliance with international law, of the development of co-operatives was not given prominence. Co-operatives have two interdependent fundamental principles: independence and sustainability. Presumably, "independence" refers to being independent from external control; the co-operatives, however, are not independent from decisions made by states and for-profit corporations in areas that foster unsustainability.

True sustainability, if it is to be a meaningful principle would encompass the following objectives.

Sustainability through global North/South equity. OBJECTIVE: to provide equal distribution of resources between North and South countries.

Sustainability through socially equitable and environmentally sound economy, and employment. OBJECTIVE: to respect labour rights, including fair and just transition, to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and to ensure the right to safe and healthy working conditions.

Sustainability through social justice. OBJECTIVE: to ensure social justice; social and cultural rights - right to food, right to housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage, right to education and right to a universally accessible not-for-profit health care system.

Sustainability through ecological principles. OBJECTIVE: to move away from the current model of unsustainable and over-consumptive development, to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, to respect for the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, and to reduce the ecological footprint

Sustainability through human rights. OBJECTIVE: to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including rights of the child, indigenous rights, rights of migrant workers, and civil and political rights.

Sustainability through peace. OBJECTIVE: to achieve a state of peace, and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses, and to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Court of Justice;

True sustainability would incorporate the above objectives.

For co-operatives, at all levels, to become truly sustainable, and both independent from external control but interdependent through principle-based behaviour, they would have to be advocates for governments and corporations to fulfill the above objectives of “sustainability”.

The above objectives for true sustainability can be found within international obligations incurred through Treaties, Conventions, and Covenants, within international commitments from Conference Action Plans, and UN General Assembly Resolutions and Declarations.

Peremptory norms arise from obligations incurred through covenants, treaties and conventions that have been signed and ratified by all states, or a majority of states representing the range of legal systems, and of geographical areas. Peremptory norms also arise from commitments made through UN General Assembly resolutions or through UN conference plans.

This paper contends that only when states/for-profit corporations are compelled to comply with peremptory norms arising from international obligations and commitments will co-operatives be able to fully implement and sustain their values and principles.

AN OPPORTUNITY IN 2009

"A virtuous not vicious cycle" (Joseph Stiglitz, 2008, CIRIEC).

In September 15, 2008, after the collapse of the Lehman Brothers, the global economy has been described as a global "economic collapse", as an "economic earthquake", as "economic turbulence", as a collapse of a pack of cards etc., and has been used to justify the abandoning of other pillars of sustainability. This situation is the consequence of decades of over-consumptive, unsustainable and socially inequitable development.

Co-operative theorists and practitioners began to envision a new role for co-operatives following the "demise of the neo-classic capitalist economic model" International Co-operative Alliance (ICA). For example, on the 22nd October, 2008, ICA sent a letter to the G8 countries urging them to understand that the co-operative is a real alternative:

"There is an alternative secure, stable and sustainable model of business owned and controlled by 800 million people worldwide. It is true to its global values and principles of self-help, sustainability, community ownership and control, democratic participation, fairness and transparency."

For years, for-profit corporations have been responsible and have benefited from the relaxing, by states, of regulations and have functioned in an unsustainable way, causing a vicious cycle of errors. These errors have resulted in global unsustainability.

While for-profit corporations espouse the rhetoric of "sustainability", through the so-called triple bottom line - economic, social and environmental, they, usually in collusion with governments, undermine the serious implementation of true sustainability by advocating "voluntary compliance", and by decrying the "command and control" exercised by mandatory government regulations. Often for-profit corporations have been allowed to delude the public by placing or by being placed on lists such as the Ethisphere, the Corporate Knight, the Global Compact all schemes to profile a minor achievement of sustainability to mask the major proportion of their unsustainable practices.

In contrast, the co-operative enterprises, in being principle-based, in acting on their principles (if not being impeded from adhering to their principles by governments, for-profit corporations, Bretton Woods Institutions, and trade agreements), break the vicious cycle of error, and offer a virtuous cycle of resolve. This resolve will result in true sustainability, if states and for-profit corporations are compelled to end years of unsustainability.

Only then will the existing vicious cycle of error end and the virtuous cycle of resolve begin.

TRUE SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH STATE AND CORPORATE COMPLIANCE WITH OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS

True sustainability is a global obligation, not an optional value.

Governments have to pass legislation that foster co-operatives and implement the ILO Recommendation 193, and to enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance with commitments made and obligations incurred through international laws related to sustainability.

Co-operatives will benefit not only from states acknowledging the co-operative as a real alternative, but also from states being compelled to discharge their obligations and act on their commitments through legislation enacted to prevent actions and practices that would undermine the established values and principle espoused by co-operatives. It is only when governments fulfill their role that disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and communities will be able to achieve and “sustain” true sustainability.

1. IMAGE: STATE AND FOR-PROFIT CORPORATIONS IMPEDING CO-OPERATIVES

2. IMAGE: SACRIFICING PRINCIPLES BEFORE THE ALTAR OF POWER AND PROFIT

In this paper, I will suggest that co-operatives will be able to fully implement their principles only when states are compelled to implement the far-reaching norms emerging from obligations and commitments, and only when states ensure that corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with national laws and codes, social security regulations and international environmental laws, as agreed in (167 m, Advance Draft, Platform of Action, UN Conference on Women, May 15, 1995).

I will also suggest that co-operatives should become aware of what governments have agreed to internationally so that international law can be used not only to undergird the values and principles of co-operatives but also to serve as a basis for countering state and for-profit corporate unsustainability. Co-operatives have been reluctant to play an active role in what might be deemed “political”; the advantage of using international law is that co-operatives, cannot be criticized, for being too political, when they ask for little more than for states to comply with their international obligations and commitments.

States must be compelled to comply with international obligations and commitments, and states must compel for-profit corporations to comply with international law related

to true sustainability

.

2. ICA CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES/VALUES

Values

Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others.

Principles

The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice.

1st Principle; Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

2nd Principle Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are also organized in a democratic manner.

3rd Principle: Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually received limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any of the following purposes: developing their cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the participation of the members.

4th Principle: Autonomy and Independence

Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

5th Principle: Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of the cooperatives. They inform the general public—particularly young people and opinion leaders—about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6th Principle: Co-operation Among Co-operatives

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the Co-operative Movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures. [which would include the rule of law]

7th Principle: Concern for Community

Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members. And “sustainability (resolution 2006).

3. IMAGES, CARTOONS, INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS.

Images, cartoons and a selection of statements from international obligation and commitments

NOTE 1: this was the main part of the presentation for CASC, May 27, 2009; the references to the images and cartoons will be in red; the comments about the obligations and commitments will be in light blue, the international references will be in black, and the comment about cooperatives and international law will be in purple.

NOTE 2. While the concept of “development”, if it is to have a positive connotation, must be redefined in ethical, ecological, and equitable terms. [if so, it could be surmised that the so-called developed countries would then become the least developed]. In this paper , however, because the terms “developing” and “developed” countries have been used in international documents, the historical definitions will be used.

NOTE 3. All spelling in the International texts is “English” not “Canadian or American”

Through the United Nations system, member states have incurred obligations through covenants, conventions, and treaties, have made commitments through the Conference Action Plans, and have created expectations through UN General Assembly Declarations and Resolutions.

Through these obligations, commitments and expectations, member states of the United Nations have undertaken to comply with objectives related to the ICA principles of “independence”, “international cooperation, “sustainable development “Sustainability”,

3.1 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH GLOBAL NORTH/SOUTH EQUITY

OBJECTIVE: to provide equal distribution of resources between North and South countries,

3.IMAGE: SUMMIT NORTH/ SOUTH MISTREATMENT -DISCRIMINATION OF SOUTH BY NORTH [“Welcome to the summit” [Appropriation of a Cartoon by Gable from the Globe and Mail]

4.IMAGE: NEW WORLD ORDER MISAPPROPRIATED THE NEW OLD WORLD ORDER (DOG EAT DOG WORLD).

Over the years through numerous conference action plans, and declarations northern states have made a commitment to transfer funds from North to South:

Throughout the years, most member states, of the United Nations made a commitment to To transfer 0.7 % of GDP for overseas development. Apparently this commitment was first made in the 1950s, and then continually re-stated often without acknowledging the long- standing commitment.

In 1969, many member states of the United Nations adopted the Declaration on Social Welfare, Progress and Development, and agreed to release resources for social welfare:

The achievement of general and complete disarmament and the channeling of the progressively released resources to be used for economic and social progress for the welfare of people everywhere and in particular for the benefit of developing countries. (Article 27 a)

In 1974, many member states of the United Nations adopted the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, which committed stated to “correct inequalities”, “to redress existing injustices”, “to co-operation among all states”, and “to condemn inequitable economic growth” and agreed, in the preamble, to

the Establishment of a New International Economic Order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generation... (Preamble).

In 1976, at the Habitat I Conference, every member state of the United Nations a

Affirmed that:

inequitable economic growth, reflected in the wide disparities in wealth which now exist between countries and between human beings and which condemn millions of people to a life of poverty, without satisfying the basic requirements for food, education, health services, shelter, environmental hygiene, water and energy; (Principles).

In 1976, every member state of the United Nations adopted the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat I, and through this Declaration Affirmed the “right to rule over foreign investment”

Every State has the sovereign right to rule and exercise effective control over foreign investments, including the transnational corporations—within its national jurisdiction, which affect directly or indirectly the human settlements programme (II 17, I ,1976).

And also affirmed that

social economic, ecological and environmental deterioration which are exemplified at the national and international levels by inequalities in living conditions, social segregation, racial discrimination, acute unemployment, illiteracy, disease and poverty, the breakdown of social relationships and traditional cultural values and the increasing degradation of life-supporting resources of air , water and land; (Principles)

In 1994, these concerns and recognitions were reaffirmed when all member states of the United Nations adopted the Conference Statement from International Conference on Population and Development, which proclaimed that

Despite decades of development efforts, both the gap between rich and poor nations and the inequalities within nations have widened. Serious economic, social, gender and other inequities persist and hamper efforts to improve the quality of life for hundreds of millions of people. The number of people living in poverty stands at approximately 1 billion and continues to mount. (3.11. 1994).

One of the key ICA principles is “co-operation with co-operatives--to strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures”.

If states continue to fail to comply with commitments related to overcoming the long-standing inequitable distribution of resources; to lessening widening gap between the North and the South; to ignoring the transfer of Overseas Development Aid of .07 % of GDP; co-operation between co-operatives in the North and South will be difficult to attain.

Co-operatives around the world, may be able to implement their principles only if they take a strong stand against state/corporate militarism and advocate the reallocation of the peace dividend to help developing countries.

If the states from the North continue to fail to act on their commitments, to not revoke charters or licences of transnational corporations that perpetuate unsustainable practices, or to oppose the setting up military bases, co-operation between co-operatives in the North and South will be difficult to attain.

If the cooperative movement is to be truly international and fulfill its principle of “international cooperation” co-operatives in the North have a responsibility to work with co-operatives in the South to pressure states to fulfill the above commitments for the benefit of co-operatives in the developing countries.

Eradicating Poverty

5. IMAGE: BOY ON WALL ON PURANA PERPETUATING POVERTY DISPLACED PERSONS IN REFUGEE CAMP

In 1992, every member state of the United Nations adopted Chapter 3, Combating Poverty, of Agenda 21, UNCED, and recognized

The eradication of poverty and hunger, greater equality and equity in income distribution and human resources development remain major challenges everywhere. The struggle against poverty is the shared responsibility of all countries (3.1).

In 1994, all member states adopted International Conference on Population and Development, For years, all member states at the United Nations were fully aware of the global source of poverty, and this concern was reinforced in the following way:

“Poverty is also closely related to inappropriate spatial distribution of population, to unsustainable use and inequitable distribution of such natural resources as land and water, and to serious environmental degradation” (3.13).

And affirmed that

they [human beings] have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families including adequate food, clothing, housing, water (Principle 2)

If states continue to fail to seriously eradicate poverty, it will be difficult, for co-operatives, to foster and promote the principle of international cooperation, If the co-operative movement is to seriously be part of the solution to global poverty, the movement will have to urge governments to address the poverty caused by the unsustainable use and inequitable distribution of natural resources.

3.2 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SOCIALLY EQUITABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

OBJECTIVE: to respect labour rights, including fair and just transition; to enable socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and to ensure the right to safe and healthy working conditions:

6.IMAGE: PART OF THE PROBLEM POTP; DISPLAYING THE NAMES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE G-20 (CARTOON APPROPRIATION OF LARSON).

Many of the member states of the G-20 have been responsible for the Economic crisis, through years of unsustainable patterns of consumption and development. The groups of states such as the G8 and the G-20 have emerged as an affront to the United Nations, which represents all states.

In 1976, every member state of the United Nations adopted the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat I. In the Declaration there was a recognition that solutions would be found through international co-operation based on the principles of the UN

Recognizing that international co-operation, based on the principles of the United Nations Charter, has to be developed and strengthened in order to provide solutions for world problems and to create an international community based on equity, justice and solidarity (Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat I 1976)

If states continue to fail to create an international community based on equity, social justice and solidarity, co-operatives may be impeded from fulfilling their principles related to equity, social justice and solidarity. The G-20 confirms the oft-cited statement of Einstein that the problem can never be solved by the consciousness that created it (a paraphrase).

7.IMAGE BIKINI BAILOUTS, WOMAN {SYMBOLIZING CORPORTION) ENTICING OFFICIAL

8. IMAGE ON UN WEBSITE; MONEY BEING OFFERED AND HAND REFUSING [UN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT IMAGE]

Most member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 2003 Convention Against Corruption. Over the years, unfortunately, generally when the term “corruption” has been used, by northern states, academics, institutions, media etc, the term usually has applied to “developing states”. Corruption was often perceived, by the North to only refer to the transfer of funds to bribe elected officials in the South, and the practice of corporate funding of political parties and elections in “democratic” countries, in the North, was not deemed to be “corruption”. It was always difficult to appreciate the subtle difference between pre-election and post-election monetary influence on politicians. The above image no. 8, however, is sufficiently clear to be also referring to the payment of funds whether before, during, and after elections. It is becoming clearer and clearer that corruption is alive and well in so-called developed states; bailouts, however, of corporate donors to political parties is not yet deemed to be “corruption”.

Signatories of the Convention Against Corruption, have collectively expressed the following concern:

about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, (Preamble).

And concern

about cases of corruption that involve vast quantities of assets, which may constitute a substantial proportion of the resources of States, and that threaten the political stability and sustainable development of those States, (Preamble).

And have incurred the following obligation “

to endeavour to establish and promote effective practices aimed at the prevention of corruption.” (Article 5.2).

And the following obligation

to consider taking appropriate legislative and administrative measures, consistent with the objectives of this Convention and in accordance with the fundamental principles of its domestic law, to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and, where applicable, the funding of political parties. (Article 7.3).

And the following obligation

Embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion of property by a public official
Each State Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences, when committed intentionally, the

embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion by a public official for his or her benefit or for the benefit of another person or entity, of any property, public or private funds or securities or any other thing of value entrusted to the public official by virtue of his or her position. (Article 17).

If state officials, from the North, continue to accept political “donations” and continue to be influenced by lobbying from the for-profit corporate sector engaged in unsustainable practices, co-operatives will be impeded in fulfilling their principles and

values. For the sake of implementing the principle of international co-operation, it may be incumbent upon northern co-operatives, to work with their southern counterparts, to expose the inherent hypocrisy of the North in perceiving “corruption” as being solely an infliction of the South.

3.3 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SOCIAL JUSTICE

OBJECTIVE: to ensure the right to development and social justice; to guarantee social and cultural rights- right to food, right to housing, right to safe drinking water and sewage, right to education and right to universally accessible not for profit health care system

Right to Housing

9.IMAGE: THREE HOMELESS MEN ABANDONNED

10. IMAGE HOMELESS MAN IN THE STREETS RIGHT TO HOUSING

In 1948, every member state adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (UNDHR) and recognized the right of everyone to housing:

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control (Art. 25,1 UNDHR)..

Most member states of the United Nations have signed and ratified the 1966 International Covenant of Social Economic and Cultural rights (ICSECR) which reaffirmed the right of everyone...to housing through recognizing

the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family [for himself/herself and his/her family], including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent. General comment on its implementation (Article 11, (1) ICSECR).

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member state of the United Nations adopted Chapter 7, Human Settlements, of Agenda 21. and made a commitment to provide

access to safe and healthy shelter [which] is essential to a person's physical, psychological, social and economic well being and should be a fundamental part of national and international action. The right to adequate housing as a basic human right is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (7.6).

If states continue to fail to treat housing as a basic human right, it becomes increasingly incumbent on co-operatives not only to set up co-op housing but to urge governments to comply with the long-standing obligation to guarantee the human right to housing, and to address the plight of the homeless.

Right to food/right to be free from hunger

11. IMAGE: HOMELESS AND HUNGRY RIGHT TO FOOD DENIED [WOMAN BEGGING ON STREET]

12. IMAGE: SURVIVING WITH PICKINGS FROM THE DUMP CHILD, WITH GARBAGE BASKET, SEARCHING FOR FOOD IN THE DUMP RIGHT TO FOOD DENIED

13. IMAGE HAITI WOMEN FORAGING THROUGH GARBAGE DUMP RIGHT TO FOOD DENIED

In 1948 every member state of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all states affirmed that

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. (Article 25. 1)

Subsequently, most member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1966 International Covenant of Social, Economic and cultural rights, which reaffirmed the right of everyone to be free from hunger;

The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed: (Article 11).

To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources; (Article 11 2 a)

Taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries, to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need. (Article 11, 2b).

In 1974, member states of the United Nations, negotiated the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, which affirmed the “grave food crisis”

The grave food crisis that is afflicting the peoples of the developing countries where most of the world’s hungry and ill-nourished live and where more than two thirds of the world’s population produce about one third of the world’s food—and imbalance which threatens to increase in the next 10 years—is not only fraught with grave economic and social implications, but also acutely jeopardizes the most fundamental principles and values associated with the right to life and human dignity as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

and made a firm commitment to “end the age old scourge of hunger”:

Time is short. Urgent and sustained action is vital. The conference, therefore, calls upon all peoples expressing their will as individuals, and through their Governments, and non-governmental organizations to work together to bring about the end of the age old scourge of hunger.

and reaffirmed the inalienable right to be free from hunger

Every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties. Society today already possess sufficient resources, organizational ability and technology and hence the competence to achieve this objective. Accordingly, the eradication of hunger is a common objective of all the countries of the international community, especially of the developed countries and others in a position to help. *(Sect.1)*

This commitment was reinforced, by referring to the “Satisfaction of the basic needs of food” in the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat I, in 1976, in the statement of General Principles:

The improvement of the quality of life of human beings is the first and most important objective of every human settlement policy. These policies must facilitate the rapid and continuous improvement in the quality of life of all people, beginning with the satisfaction of the basic needs of food, shelter, clean water, employment, health, education, training, social security without any discrimination as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, ideology, national or social origin or other cause, in a frame of freedom, dignity and social justice. *(II, 11 Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat I, 1976).*

In 1994, every state adopted the Action plan for International Conference on Population and Development again affirmed the right to food [but at this time it was to adequate food which needs to be carefully defined]

They [human beings] have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families including adequate food, clothing, housing, water (Principle 2. International Conference on Population and Development, 1994)

Subsequently, in 1995, the access to food was recognized as a basic human right.

Reduce vulnerability calls for enhancing food security by recognizing access to food as a basic human right (Prep Com II Reduction and Elimination of Widespread Poverty, UN Secretariat Plan of Action World Summit for Social Development, March 1995).

If states continue to fail to guarantee the inalienable human right to food; if states continue to fail to end the scourge of hunger, and if states continue to fail to recognize access to food as a basic human right, co-operatives cannot remain “independent” while others starve, and it is incumbent upon them to urge governments to comply with government obligations and commitments.

Food security

14. IMAGE: EPA MISLABELLING GE FOOD AS ORGANIC: CARTOON

Food security has been an important provision in numerous documents. Food Security, however, has to be defined because it is more than simply access to food; it must be access to food that is unadulterated, non-genetically engineered, and pesticide-free. With the introduction and release of genetically engineered foods and crops, the promoters of GE foods and crops attempted to designate these crops as “organic”; this attempt failed. Labeling does not organic food make

Most member states of the United Nations signed, and later ratified the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity; through this Convention, the signatories made a commitment to the precautionary principle which, if implemented, would have resulted

in the banning of genetically engineered food and crops, for numerous reasons including the impact on genetic diversity, genetic drift, and the potential unknown health and environmental consequences.

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the precautionary principle reads as follows:

Where there is a threat of loss and reduction of biodiversity, lack of full scientific certainty *should* shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat (Preamble)

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), all member states of the United Nations adopted chapter 14, Agriculture, of Agenda 21, and stressed the importance of addressing environmental problems related to land degradation:

Land degradation is the most important environmental problem affecting extensive areas of land in both developed and developing countries. The problem of soil erosion is particularly acute in developing countries, while problems of salinization, water logging, soil pollution and loss of soil fertility are increasing in all countries. (14.44. 1992).

If states continue to fail to invoke the precautionary principle; and to fail to revoke charters of corporations that develop genetically engineered food, that contribute to a loss of genetic diversity and heritage seeds, and that create a risk of genetic drift; co-operatives will be adversely affected. The co-operatives that are organic farms could lose their organic designation if they are adjacent to genetically engineered crops because of genetic drift. As a result, co-operative organic farms would not be able to maintain their independence and would be perceived to no longer be ecologically sustainable. In addition, current agricultural practices of factory farming have led to land degradation and undermined food security.

Health

15. IMAGE: CHILDREN CLIMBING A GIRAFFE ORABOLIN PHARMACEUTICAL RESTRICTED USE IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IGNORED

The drug Orabolin was prescribed, in the 1980s, in Bangladesh as a growth hormone for children, whereas in the US where the drug was developed and registered it was proscribed for children.

In 1982, many member states of the United Nations adopted the Declaration related to Protection against Products Harmful to Health and the Environment, and agreed to the following:

the need for countries that have been exporting the above-mentioned products [designated harmful products] to make available the necessary information and assistance to enable the importing countries to adequately protect themselves,

and expressed awareness

of the harm to health being caused in importing countries by the export of pharmaceutical products ultimately intended also for consumption and/or sale in the home market of the exporting country, but which have not yet been approved there,

and considered

that many developing countries lack the necessary information and expertise to keep up with developments in this field

In 1989, most states signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and recognized :

the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties (24.1. Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989)

And In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Every member State of the United Nations adopted Agenda 21, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, and affirmed that:

improving human health is one of the most important objectives of development. The deterioration of environmental quality, notably air, water and soil pollution owing to toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, radiation and other sources, is a matter of growing concern...malnutrition, poverty, poor human settlements, lack of good-quality potable water and inadequate sanitation facilities add to the problems of communicable and non-communicable diseases. as a consequence, the health and well-being of a people are exposed to increasing pressures. (16.12., protecting and promoting of human health conditions agenda 21).

If states continue to export, to other states, pharmaceutical products that have not been properly tested, or properly labeled in country of origin, co-operatives in developing countries could be adversely affected and the health of their members compromised. To implement the ICA principle of international co-operation, would require vigilance and monitoring of Northern exporting countries.

Right to education

Most member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1966 International Covenant of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, and recognized

the right of everyone to education. They agree that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity, and shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further agree that education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. (13,1)

and incurred the obligation to achieve the full realization of this right by affirming the following under Article 13.2 related to Primary education:

Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all; (13.2a).
Secondary education in its different forms, including technical and vocational secondary education, shall be made generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education; (13.2b)

And to higher education:

Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education; (13.2c).

And an obligation to actively pursue

The development of a system of schools at all levels shall be actively pursued, an adequate fellowship system shall be established, and the material conditions of teaching staff shall be continuously improved. (13.2e)

If states fail to discharge the above obligations, it makes it very difficult for northern co-operatives functioning, internationally, in developing countries to not become active in addressing the issue that many children have to pay for even primary school, and their basic right to education has not been denied.

3.4 ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability through ecological principles

to move away from the current model of unsustainable and over-consumptive development, to ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, to respect the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, and to reduce the ecological footprint.

The ICA has been fully committed to ecological sustainability through (i). the adoption, by the ICA, in 1992, of the principle of "sustainable development"; (ii) the drafting of the 1992 Cooperative Agenda 21 to complement the United Nations Environment and Development (UNCED), Agenda 21; (iii) the establishing of the seven ICA values at the 1995 ICA Conference in Manchester; (iv) the passing of the sustainability resolution at the 2006 ICA Conference in (Dourdan).

16; IMAGE: DUMP -UNSUSTAINABLE PATTERN OF CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PERPETUATED

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member of the United Nations adopted Chapter 4, Changing Consumption Patterns, of Agenda 21, and made a commitment to move away from the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, and recognized

...the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances. (4.3. Changing consumption patterns, Agenda 21. 1992).

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member state of the United Nations adopted Chapter 6, Protecting and Promoting Human Health Conditions of Agenda 21, and recognized

that due to past and present developments in consumption and production patterns... energy production and use. In industry, in transportation ... there was little regard for environmental protection.

In many locations around the world the general environment, (air, water, and land), workplaces and even individual dwellings are so badly polluted that the health of hundreds of millions of people is adversely affected. This is, inter alia, due to past and present developments

in consumption and production patterns and lifestyles, in energy production and use, in industry, in transportation etc. with little or no regard for environmental protection. (6.39).

If states continue to fail to move away from the current overconsumptive model of development; this failure will have serious impacts on the implementing of co-operative values and principles related to ecological sustainability and sustainable development.

Preventing natural disasters

17. IMAGE: PREVENTING DISASTERS PHOTO OF KATRINA

In 1994, many member states of the United Nations signed the Convention on Disasters, and recognized that "the world is increasingly "interdependent" and they incurred an obligation

To act in a new spirit of partnership to build a safer world based on common interests and shared responsibility to save human lives, since natural disasters do not respect borders. Regional and international cooperation will significantly enhance our ability to achieve real progress in preventingdisasters through the transfer of Best Ecologically Sound *technology* and the sharing of information and joint disaster prevention ... activities. Bilateral and multilateral assistance and financial resources should be mobilized to support these efforts (3 a Convention on Natural Disaster, 1994).

If states fail to seriously discharge their obligation to prevent natural disasters, co-operatives have a responsibility to urge government to comply with the precautions, outlined under the Convention on Disasters. For example, if the governments in New Orleans had heeded the warnings and constructed the required protection, the impact would have been minimized. In a comment from an official in Holland, when asked what would Holland do if it were told that the only way they could be protected from Category 5 storm was to spend billions of dollars on a reinforced wall, he responded if that is what was necessary we would find the funds.

Na-techs disasters

18. IMAGE BURIAL OF AN UNKNOWN CHILD BHOPAL

19. IMAGE OF BHOPAL SITE DEFYING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

20. IMAGE CARTOON OF EXXON VALDEZ JURY OF OIL COVERED SEA MAMMALS

Most states have signed and ratified the 1994 Convention for Reduction of Disasters, in which the concept of disaster reduction has been extended to what has been described as "Na-Techs"—situations that would include environmental and technological disasters. The signatories recommend the enlarged concept of disasters:

Experience has demonstrated that, although not a part of the mandate of the Decade, the concept of the disaster reduction should be enlarged to cover natural and other disaster situations including environmental and technological disasters (Na-Techs) and their interrelationship which can have a significant impact on social, economic, cultural and environmental systems, in particular in developing countries (B i Convention on Natural Disaster, 1994).

And recognized the causal role of existing patterns of consumption;

Some patterns of consumption, production and development have the potential for increasing the vulnerability to natural disasters, particularly of the poor and socially disadvantaged groups. However, sustainable development can contribute to reduction of this vulnerability, if planned and managed in a way to ameliorate the social and economic conditions of the affected groups and communities. (A. 4. Basis for the Strategy)

If states continue to fail to revoke charters and licences of corporations that are engaged in dangerous and negligent practices that could result in Na-tech disasters, co-operatives could themselves be victims of the Na-Tech Disasters. Often, the North has condoned corporations using the argument of extraterritorialism - what right do we have to impose our “high” standards on other states; even though through many agreements states have made a commitment not to relax environmental standards to attract industry.

Pesticides restricted or banned

21.a. IMAGE; BOY SPRAYED FOR WEEVIL SPRAY DANGEROUS SOLUTIONS: [PESTICIDE DDT RESTRICTED OR BANNED}

21 b.IMAGE: ASBESTOS FACTORY IN INDIA

In 1982, many member states of the United Nations adopted the resolution “Protection against export of products harmful to health and the environment” and they demonstrated, in the preamble, that they were aware

of the damage to health and the environment that the continued production and export of products that have been banned and/or permanently withdrawn on grounds of human health and safety from domestic markets is causing in the importing countries

and aware

that some products, although they present a certain usefulness in specific cases and/or under certain conditions, have been severely restricted in their consumption and/or sale owing to their toxic effects on health and the environment.

This awareness was reinforced, in 1992, in Chapter 19, Toxic Chemicals, in Agenda 21

The export to developing countries of chemicals that have been banned in producing countries or whose use has been severely restricted in some industrialized countries has been the subject of concern, as some importing countries lack the ability to ensure safe use, owing to inadequate infrastructure for controlling the importation, distribution, storage, formulation and disposal of chemicals (19.67).

In spite of this awareness states have continued over the years to export substances or products that are banned or restricted in Country of origin: For example, DDT, Asbestos etc.

If states do not enforce the provisions of this Resolution, and statement, co-operatives, particularly in the developing countries, could be exposed to the chemicals that have been banned or restricted in the country of origin. Co-operatives in the North have an obligation to work with co-operative in the South, in urging states to urge governments

to discharge their obligations under this Convention, and prevent the export, to other states of these banned and restricted products.

Health and the environment

22. IMAGE: SIN MAIS NO HAY PAIS GENETICLY ENGINEERED CORN DUMPED IN VIOLATION OF TRANSFERRING HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

Most member states of the United Nations have signed the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and have affirmed

that States are responsible for the fulfillment of their international obligations concerning the protection of human health and protection and preservation of the environment, and are liable in accordance with international law (Preamble, 1989)

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member state of the United Nations adopted the Rio Declaration and its principle 14 which reads:

States *should* effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.

If states fail to act on this commitment, and continue to transfer to other states these harmful activities and substances, co-operatives in the receiving state could eventually be impacted by severe environmental degradation, or by harm to human health.

Ecologically sound agriculture

22. IMAGE : TOXICOS - PESTICIDE USE BANANA NICARAGUA IN VIOLATION OF TRANSFERRING HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member state of the United Nations adopted Chapter 14, Agriculture, of Agenda 21; in this chapter, concern was expressed about the health and environment domination of chemical control of pests in agriculture.

Chemical control of agricultural pests has dominated the scene, but its overuse has adverse effects on farm budgets, human health and the environment...(14.74. Agriculture, Agenda 21, UNCED).

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member of the United Nations under Chapter 19 ,Hazardous Chemicals, expressed the following concerns

The dramatic growth in chemicals production and trade during the past three decades has raised both public and official concern about the potential risks posed by hazardous chemicals and pesticides. Countries lacking adequate infrastructure to monitor the import and use of these chemicals are particularly vulnerable.

And subsequently, most states signed and ratified 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International trade.

Seeing the need for mandatory controls, officials attending the 1992 Rio Summit adopted Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, which called for the adoption of a legally binding instrument on the PIC procedure by the year 2000. Consequently, the FAO Council (in 1994) and the UNEP Governing Council (in 1995) mandated their executive heads to launch negotiations which led to the finalization of the text of the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade in March 1998.

While claiming to be concerned about the developing states,

Taking into account the circumstances and particular requirements of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular the need to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for the management of chemicals, including transfer of technology, providing financial and technical assistance and promoting cooperation among the Parties

While purporting to ensure labelling protective to human health and the environment:

Desiring to ensure that hazardous chemicals that are exported from their territory are packaged and labelled in a manner that is adequately protective of human health and the environment, consistent with the principles of the Amended London Guidelines and the International Code of Conduct, and recognizing that trade and environmental policies should be mutually supportive with a view to achieving sustainable development.

There is a provision in the Convention which is diametrically opposed to the precautionary principle:

Recalling the pertinent provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and chapter 19 of Agenda 21 on "Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.

[obviously principle 15 –the precautionary principle was not deemed pertinent]

Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent (Principle 15, Rio Declaration, UNCED).

And under Article 6, there is the “oops factor” where there appears to be exoneration after transferring the hazardous product or substance

Any Party that is a developing country or a country with an economy in transition and that is experiencing problems caused by a severely hazardous pesticide formulation under conditions of use in its territory, may propose to the Secretariat the listing of the severely hazardous pesticide formulation in Annex III. In developing a proposal, the Party may draw upon technical expertise from any relevant source. (Article 6, 1)

Most states have agreed to the 1989 Code of Conduct and the UNEP Code of Ethics on the International Trade in Chemicals, which advanced the notion of Prior Informed Consent:

(i) "Prior informed consent" (PIC) refers to the principle that international shipment of a chemical that is banned or severely restricted in order to protect human health and the environment should not proceed without the agreement, where such agreement exists, or contrary to the decision of, the designated national authority in the importing country. For the purpose of this code, "designated national authority" means a national government authority designated for purposes of information exchange and the prior informed consent procedure being carried out by UNEP and FAO.

If developed states transfer to developing states these harmful activities and substances, they often use the justification of “prior informed consent” to absolve themselves from any responsibility related to harm in the receiving state. Unfortunately, “prior informed consent” may result in developing states being willing, out of necessity, to relax health and environmental standards. Unfortunately, in the mid 1980’s, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme developed and promoted voluntary rather than a mandatory information –exchange programmes. The relaxing of these standards could impact on co-operatives in developing states.

Marine environment

24. IMAGE: CAPTION-“IMAGINE WHAT THEIR OWN WORLD MUST BE LIKE”. WHALE PERSPECTIVE ON ITS PERSPECTIVE OF POLLUTION IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT (CARTOON).

Many member states of the United Nations adopted the 1974 Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, and made a commitment

To assure the proper conservation of natural resources being utilized, or which might be utilized, for food production, all countries must collaborate in order to facilitate the preservation of the environment, including the marine environment. (Sect. 8)

Member states of the United Nations, have with impunity deposited deleterious substances in the marine environment.

Most member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Seas of the Living Resource, and incurred the obligation:

To ensure [as a coastal state] through proper conservation and management measures that the maintenance of the living resources in the exclusive economic zone is not endangered by over-exploitation. As appropriate, the coastal State and competent international organizations, whether subregional, regional or global, shall co-operate to this end. (Art. 61. 2)

And incurred the obligation:

To take, individually or jointly as appropriate, all measures consistent with this Convention that are necessary to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from any source, using for this purpose the best practicable means at their disposal and in accordance with their capabilities and they shall endeavour to harmonize their policies in this connection (Art. 194).

And the further obligation

to protect and preserve the marine environment. (Article 192).

And the obligation

To take all measures necessary to ensure that activities under their jurisdiction or control are so conducted as not to cause damage by pollution to other States and their environment, and that pollution arising from incidents or activities under their jurisdiction or control does not spread beyond the areas where they exercise sovereign rights in accordance with this Convention. (Art. 194. 2).

And the obligation:

To take measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment, States shall act so as not to transfer, directly or indirectly, damage or hazards from one area to another or transform one type of pollution into another (Article 195, Law of the Seas, 1982)

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member state adopted Chapter 17, Marine, of Agenda 21, at UNCED indicated their awareness the source of the degradation of the marine environment

Degradation of the marine environment can result from a wide range of sources. Land-based sources contribute 70% of marine pollution, while maritime transport and dumping-at-sea activities contribute 10 % each (Marine, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992).

And undertook to carry out approaches that are integrated in content and are precautionary and anticipatory

The marine environment - including the oceans and all seas and adjacent coastal areas - forms an integrated whole that is an essential component of the global life - support system and a positive asset that presents opportunities for sustainable development... This requires new approaches to marine and coastal area management and development, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, approaches that are integrated in content and are precautionary and anticipatory in ambit, as reflected in the following programme areas: 3/

- (a) Integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including exclusive economic zones;
- (b) Marine environmental protection;
- (c) Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources of the high seas;
- (d) Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources under national jurisdiction;
- (e) Addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change;
- (f) Strengthening international, including regional, cooperation and coordination;
- (g) Sustainable development of small islands. (17.1).

Most Member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity which applied as well marine and other aquatic ecosystems:

Biodiversity” is defined as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCED, 1992).

In Agenda 21, UNCED, every member states of the UN made a commitment to prevent pollution in the marine environment.

Degradation of the marine environment can result from a wide range of sources. Land-based sources contribute 70% of marine pollution, while maritime transport and dumping-at-sea activities contribute 10 % each (Marine, Agenda 21, UNCED, 1992).

If states fail to discharge their obligations under the Convention on the Law of the Seas, and the Convention on Biological Diversity; and if states fail to act on their commitments to protect the marine ecosystem, their failure will have and continue to have a deleterious impact on the global environment and on co-operative enterprises such as sustainable fishing co-operatives.

Desertification

25. IMAGE: SHIPS IN THE DESERT DEVASTATION THROUGH DESERTIFICATION

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member states of the United Nations, adopted Chapter 12, Desertification, of Agenda 21, and recognized the urgency of affects of desertification:

Desertification affects about one sixth of the world's population, 70% of all drylands, amounting to 3.6 billion hectares, and one quarter of the total land areas of the world. The most obvious impact of desertification, in addition to widespread poverty, is the degradation of 3.3 billion hectares of the total area of rangeland, constituting 73 percent of the rangeland with a low potential for human and animal carrying capacity, decline in soil fertility and soil structure on about 47 per cent of the dryland areas constituting marginal rain-fed cropland and the degradation of irrigated cropland, amounting to 30 % of the dryland areas with a high population density and agricultural potential. (12.2).

Most of the member states of the United Nations signed and ratified, the 1994 Convention on Combating of Desertification, and acknowledged that desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world and that joint action of the international community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought, ... (Preamble).

And noted that desertification is caused by complex interactions among physical, biological, political, social, cultural and economic factors,

And “considered the importance and necessity of international cooperation and partnership in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought,

And recognized the urgent need to improve the effectiveness and coordination of international cooperation to facilitate the implementation of national plans and priorities,

And determined to take appropriate action in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought for the benefit of present and future generations,

And affirmed the objective

to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas. Article 2

And incurred an obligation to adopt an integrated approach addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of desertification and drought; 2 (a).

And incurred an obligation to address the underlying causes of desertification and pay special attention to the socio- economic factors contributing to desertification processes; (Article 10 c)

And developed country parties incurred an obligation to actively support, as agreed, individually or jointly, the efforts of affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa,

and the least developed countries, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought; (Article 6 (a)).

And through international cooperation the parties have incurred an obligation to develop environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable Technologies.

The Parties undertake, as mutually agreed and in accordance with their respective national legislation and/or policies, to promote, finance and/or facilitate the financing of the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas. Such cooperation shall be conducted bilaterally or multilaterally, as appropriate, making full use of the expertise of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Parties shall, in particular Article 12 (1).

If states fail to develop environmentally sound, ecological viable and socially acceptable technologies; and if states subsidize and promote socially inequitable and environmentally unsound technologies, the global community, including co-operatives, will be impacted by these unsustainable technologies. While developed states in the North are fully aware of the causes of desertification, and have incurred obligations related to preventing desertification, they continue to not revoke the charters of their national corporations that are investing in Africa, and other vulnerable states and thus contributing to destabilization and desertification.

Right to safe drinking water and Sewage treatment

26. a IMAGE OF SOWETO TOWNSHIP WHERE THERE HAD BEEN A CRISIS WITH THE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNESHIP'S SUPPLYING DRINKING WATER AND SEWAGE TREATMENT

26. b. IMAGE: PROTEST AGAINST PRIVATIZATION IN COCHABAMBA

The member states of the United Nations have for years made commitments to ensure the to safe drinking water, and right to sewage treatment:.

In 1977, in Mar del Plata, an international action plan was developed and member states of the United Nations agreed that all peoples, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs.

In 1981 the United Nations launched the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade whose "target of the decade was to provide safe drinking-water and sanitation to underserved urban and rural areas by 1990. "

In 1992, while the goal in 1981 was not achieved, this goal was reaffirmed In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), , when every members state of the United Nations adopted Chapter 18, Freshwater, in Agenda 21,

... The most outstanding of these efforts was the launching in 1981 of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, which resulted from the Mar del Plata Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Water Conference in 1977. The commonly agreed premise was that "all peoples, whatever their stage of development

and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs". 2/ The target of the Decade was to provide safe drinking-water and sanitation to underserved urban and rural areas by 1990, but even the unprecedented progress achieved during the Decade was not enough. One in three people in the developing world still lacks these two most basic requirements for health and dignity. (Chapter 18: protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources:18.4).

Every member state of the United Nations made a commitment to provide safe drinking-water and sanitation not only in Chapter 18 (Freshwater) of Agenda 21, but also in the following Chapters”.

In Chapter 3, Combating Poverty, all states made a commitment:

To provide the poor with access to fresh water and sanitation (Chapter 3.8).

In Chapter 5, Dynamics and sustainability, all states made a commitment: To develop and strengthen primary health care system....that meet basic health needs for clean water (6.5. a i).

And a commitment To provide health and hygiene education and to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and universal access to sanitary measures ...(6.12 e).

And a commitment to apply methods for the prevention and control of communicable diseases including water supply and sanitation control, water pollution control, food quality control, integrated vector control, garbage collection and disposal and environmentally sound irrigation practices (6.13.(d)).

And a commitment to develop appropriate water pollution control technologies on the basis of health risk assessment; (6.41. i).

And a commitment To promote the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste management (6.41(d)).

In Chapter 7, Promoting sustainable human settlement development, all member states of the United Nations made a commitment to [recognize that] the sustainability of urban development is defined by many parameters relating to the availability of water supplies, air quality and the provision of environmental infrastructure for sanitation and waste management. (7.35).

And a commitment to develop national goals for sustainable management of waste, and implement environmentally sound technology to ensure that the environment, human health and quality of life are protected. (Chapter 7.39).

And a commitment to promote [through Settlement infrastructure and environmental programmes designs] an integrated human settlements approach to the planning, development, maintenance and management of environmental infrastructure (water supply, sanitation, drainage, solid-waste management) (Chapter 7: Promoting sustainable human settlement development 7.39).

And a commitment to strengthen [environmental infrastructure] with the assistance of bilateral and multilateral agencies. (Chapter 7: ?).

In Agenda 21 there was an itemization of what it would cost to implement the global commitments. This annual estimate was a fraction of what is being spent on the global military budgets. In Chapter 33 of Agenda 21, a firm commitment was made to reallocate military

expenses. However, the right affirmed in 1977, and the target in the decade devoted to International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade to provide safe drinking-water and sanitation to underserved urban and rural areas by 1990 was never attained. Also the reaffirmation of this goal in 1992 at UNCED was ignored, and the Human Right to water was recently voted down at the Commission on Human Rights.

If states fail to act on these commitments to provide access to safe drinking water and sewage treatment, the global community, including co-operatives will be impacted by the failure of states to act in the benefit of the commons. These commitments to real access will not be achieved through public, private partnerships which exploit the commons by commodifying and privatizing fundamental needs and denying the inalienable human right to water.

27. IMAGE: WATERFALL CONSERVATION OF NATURE VALUE IN INSELF

In 1976, every member states of the United Nations adopted Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat I that recognized the need for a deep respect for nature:

The nations must avoid the pollution of the biosphere and the oceans and should join in the effort to end irrational exploitation of all environmental resources, whether non-renewable or renewable in the long term. The environment is the common heritage of mankind and its protection is the responsibility of the whole international community. All acts by nations and people should therefore be inspired ;by a deep respect for the protection of the environmental resources upon which life itself depends. (II,)

In 1982, every member state, except the United States, adopted the World Charter of Nature, and in the preamble was the following statement:

Ensuring that every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to man [human], and to accord other organisms such recognition's, man [human] must be guided by a moral code of action (Preamble).

If states fail to recognize the inherent worth of nature in itself, or if states only perceive nature as an economic way of offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, the global community including members of co-operatives, in the future, might only be able to see endangered species preserved in museums and photographed in libraries.

28. IMAGE: ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT AIR, LAND AND SEA

For years the actions of for-profit corporations have left a substantial ecological footprint from unsustainable practices. The ecological footprint has increased substantially throughout the world.

In 1996, every member state of the United Nations, adopted the Habitat II Agenda, a commitment was made to reduce the ecological foot print and states undertook the following:

To promote changes in unsustainable production and consumption patterns, particularly in industrialized countries...settlement structures that are more sustainable, reduce environmental stress, promote the efficient and rational use of natural resources- including water, air, biodiversity, forests, energy sources and land - and meet basic needs thereby providing a healthy living and working environment for all and reducing the ecological footprint of human settlements; (27 b,).

If state and for-profit corporations continue to increase the ecological footprint, co-operatives will find it increasingly difficult for them to fulfill their principle of sustainable development and sustainability. Recently, with the bailouts of the auto industry the concept of ‘reducing the ecological footprint’ has been co-opted by General Motors, when a representative of GM declared that they would be Maximizing the Manufacturing footprint. It is important for co-operatives to assist in maintaining the original denotation and connotation of the agreed-to text “reducing the ecological footprint”.

Climate Change – Global Warming

29. IMAGE: CLIMATE CHANGE DIAGRAM INTEGRATING DATA FROM A EIGHT COUNTRY STUDY BASED IN HARVARD

30. IMAGE; CORPORATE LOGOS CLAIMING THE SUN: CARTOON

31. IMAGE: *Yo Amigo don't cut down that tree.* NORTH BLAMING SOUTH FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

32. IMAGE: BUTTERFINGERS SOLUTION WORSE THAN PROBLEM IT WAS INTENDED TO SOLVE (CARTOON BY MIKE PETERS).

33. IMAGE NUCLEAR ENERGY PUBLIC RELATIONS; CLEAN AIR MISREPRESENTATION OF NUCLEAR AS BEING BENIGN THROUGH OLD GROWTH FOREST ASSOCIATION

34. IMAGE: LAND FOR FOOD NOT FOR BIOFUEL

Since the recognition of the anthropogenic causes of climate change, member states of the United Nations have procrastinated in addressing the climate change issue.

In 1988, at an international conference, The Changing Atmosphere, in Toronto, scientists, politicians, industry representatives and members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the conference warned that

Humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled, globally pervasive experiment whose ultimate consequence could be second only to a global nuclear war. The Earth's atmosphere is being changed at an unprecedented rate by pollutants resulting from wasteful fossil fuel use ... These changes represent a major threat to international security and are already having harmful consequences over many parts of the globe.... it is imperative to act now.

In the Conference Statement from the 1988 Conference, the participants, scientists, government representatives, industry representatives, other non-governmental organizations called for:

the Stabilizing of the atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ is an imperative goal. It is currently estimated to require reductions of more than 50% from present [1988] emission levels. Energy research and development budgets must be massively directed to energy options which would eliminate or greatly reduce CO₂ emissions and to studies undertaken to further refine the target reductions.

Subsequently, most member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change and incurred the following obligations, related to intergenerational equity and called for developed countries to take the lead;

to protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof. (Principles, 1).

And incurred the obligation to consider:

The specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and of those Parties, especially developing country Parties, that would have to bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden under the Convention, should be given full consideration (Principles, 2).

And incurred the obligation to invoke the precautionary principle which reads:

The Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures,... . Efforts to address climate change may be carried out cooperatively by interested Parties. (Principles,3).

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member state of the United Nations, made the following commitment, in the Chapter 9, Atmosphere, Agenda 21, UNCED, to develop

Cooperate to increase the availability of capacity, capabilities and relevant technologies... in developing countries for utilizing and producing environmentally [safe and] sound renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and biomass, including woodfuel resource. Each resource *should* be utilized in a manner that fosters *sustainable development* and minimizes environmental stress and health impacts,.(9.9 g Atmosphere, Agenda 21, March, 1992).

And slightly changed in June, 1992:

New and renewable energy sources are solar thermal, solar voltaic, wind, hydro, biomass, geothermal, ocean, animal and human power, as referred to in the reports of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, prepared specifically for the Conference (Chapter 9.g).

In the above commitment to New and renewable energy sources, nuclear energy is included as a solution to climate change. This commitment builds on the concern expressed, by all member states, except the US, of the United Nations, in the 1982 World Charter of Nature that affirmed the following:

Taking precautions to prevent discharge of radioactive or toxic wastes into natural systems
Special precautions shall be taken to prevent discharge [into natural systems] of radioactive or toxic wastes. (Art. 12b).

If states continue to procrastinate on addressing the anthropogenic causes of climate change; if for-profit corporations continue to deny climate change; if states refuse to invoke the precautionary principle, and if states and corporations are advocating “solutions” such as nuclear and biofuels, which are equally bad or worse than the problem they are intended to solve; undoubtedly the global community, including co-operatives will be impacted in a way that might impede the fulfilling of their co-

operative principles and values. At the 2009 UN Commission on Sustainable Development, NGOs, Women's groups and indigenous groups, all raised concern about nuclear energy, and about biofuels being proposed as solutions to climate change. They indicated that the North has been purchasing large tracks of land in Africa and Latin America for the planting of biofuel crops. In Africa, while states and corporations argue that, for example, the crop jatropha - an oil-rich non-edible plant grows on degraded land. Jatropha does, however, require fertiliser and irrigation if it is to achieve worthwhile oil yields. Jatropha also grows better on fertile land and there is a fear that farmers will be tempted to replace, for economic reasons, edible crops with Jatropha; this replacement could lead to increased food scarcity. In addition, there appears to be reliance on large-scale plantations, which will again impact on food security

States have generally failed through years of procrastination to develop socially equitable and environmentally safe and sound renewable energy. The increased reliance on nuclear with its potential of serious accidents, unresolved issue of waste disposal and its inextricable link with the development of nuclear arms will have serious future irreversible consequences on the global community, including on co-operatives. Also the increased reliance on biofuels, if not reversed, will have a serious impact, on the access to food and water, on the global community, including on co-operatives.

35. IMAGE LOGGER BLAMING BIRD; A CENTURY OF INDISCRIMINATE CUTTING.

In 1992, every member state of the United Nations, adopted Chapter 11, Deforestation, of Agenda 21, and condemned the degradation of the forests:

Forests world wide have been and are being threatened by uncontrolled degradation and conversion to other types of land uses, influenced by increasing human needs, agricultural expansion and environmentally harmful mismanagement, including, for example, lack of adequate forest-fire control and anti-poaching measures, unsustainable commercial logging, overgrazing and... the impacts of loss and degradation of forests are in the form of soil erosion, loss of biological diversity, damage to wildlife habitats and degradation of watershed areas, deterioration of the quality of life and reduction of the options for [ecologically sound and socially equitable]development. (11.12).

If states continue to fail to prevent the devastation of the forests; if states permit forests to be replaced by biofuels or by unsustainable agriculture; if states offset their greenhouse gas emissions through the acquisition of forests; and if water bodies, watersheds and access to clean water is impacted through deforestation, the global community, including co-operatives, will be adversely affected, and required to act to anticipate and prevent threats to water systems, and to protect the human right to water for sustenance.

36. IMAGE: LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY IN MONOCULTURE

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member states of the United Nations, adopted Chapter 15, Biodiversity, of Agenda 21, and condemned the loss of the world's biological diversity:

Despite mounting efforts over the past 20 years, the loss of the world' biological diversity, mainly from habitat destruction, over-harvesting, pollution and the inappropriate introduction of foreign plants and animals has continued. Urgent and decisive action is needed to conserve and maintain genes, species and ecosystems, with a view to the sustainable management and use of biological resources. Capacities for the assessment, study and systematic observation and evaluation of biodiversity need to be reinforced at national and international levels. (15.3).

Most member states of the United Nations, signed and ratified, the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity and have incurred an obligation

to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity at source (preamble)

And an obligation to invoke the precautionary principle, which reads

Noting also that where there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat, (Preamble).

And states indicated that they were aware;

that conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is of critical importance for meeting the food, health and other needs of the growing world population, for which purpose access to and sharing of both genetic resources and technologies are essential (Preamble).

And incurred an obligation

to enhance and complement existing international arrangements for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components, (Preamble).

And incurred an obligation

to conserve and sustainably use biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations (Preamble).

And incurred an obligation:

Introduce appropriate procedures requiring environmental impact assessment of its proposed projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity with a view to avoiding or minimizing such effects and, where appropriate, allow for public participation in such procedures; Article 14 (a).

And incurred an obligation:

Introduce appropriate arrangements to ensure that the environmental consequences of its programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account; Article 14 (b).

And incurred an obligation:

In the case of imminent or grave danger or damage, originating under its jurisdiction or control, to biological diversity within the area under jurisdiction of other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, notify immediately the potentially affected States of such danger or damage, as well as initiate action to prevent or minimize such danger or damage; Article 14 (d).

If states continue to fail to conserve biodiversity; fail to prevent the loss of biodiversity through the planting of monocultures; fail to conserve significant natural areas of universal value; fail to invoke the precautionary principle; fail to respect the rights of

future generations; the global community, including co-operatives will be impacted in numerous ways by these unsustainable practices, and co-operatives will, in many cases, be impeded in their implementation of the ICA principle of ecological sustainability.

37. IMAGE; COMINICO INSPIRED THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY PRINCIPLE

Cominco, when sued in the 1920s for causing pollution in an adjacent state, has had the dubious honour of being responsible for giving rise to the rudimentary version of the transboundary principle.

Most members of the United Nations have signed and ratified the 1982 Convention on the Law of the seas, which was the first Convention to enunciate the transboundary principle which held:

that States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that activities under their jurisdiction or control are so conducted as not to cause damage by pollution to other States and their environment, and that pollution arising from incidents or activities under their jurisdiction or control does not spread beyond the areas where they exercise sovereign rights in accordance with this Convention. (Art. 194. 2).

In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, every member state of the United Nations adopted the Rio Declaration, and consequently adopted principle 2 a reaffirmation of the transboundary principle which reads:

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. (Principle 2).

Most members of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, under which the transboundary principle was reaffirmed:

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. (Article 3).

And the obligation incurred:

to promote, on the basis of reciprocity, notification, exchange of information and consultation on activities under their jurisdiction or control which are likely to significantly affect adversely the biological diversity of other States or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, by encouraging the conclusion of bilateral, regional or multilateral arrangements, as appropriate (Article 14.c).

If states fail to abide by the transboundary principle, individual states, and co-operatives in different states could be adversely affected by unsustainable practices either in an adjacent state, or in a non-adjacent state, through air emissions or through discharges into water bodies.

38. IMAGE: PLUTONIC POWER: RUN OF THE RIVERS

39. IMAGE; RALLY FOR RIVERS PROTEST AGAINST RUN OF THE RIVERS

In 1976, every member of the United Nations adopted the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat I and affirmed:

Every State has the sovereign right to rule and exercise effective control over foreign investments, including the transnational corporations—within its national jurisdiction, which affect directly or indirectly the human settlements programme (II 17).

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member state adopted Chapter 18, Freshwater of Agenda 21, UNCED, has made a commitment

To prevent the development mode that is destructive to the environment Freshwater is a unitary resource. Long-term development of global freshwater requires holistic management of resources and a recognition of the interconnectedness of the elements related to freshwater and freshwater quality. There are few regions of the world that are still exempt from problems of loss of potential sources of freshwater supply, degraded water quality and pollution of surface and groundwater sources. Major problems affecting the water quality of rivers and lakes arise, in variable order of importance according to different situations, from inadequately treated domestic sewage, inadequate controls on the discharges of industrial waste waters, loss and destruction of catchment areas, ill-considered siting of industrial plants, deforestation, uncontrolled shifting cultivation and poor agricultural practices. This gives rise to the leaching of nutrients and pesticides. Aquatic ecosystems are disturbed and living freshwater resources are threatened. Under certain circumstances, aquatic ecosystems are also affected by agricultural water resource development projects such as dams, river diversions, water installations and irrigation schemes. Erosion, sedimentation, deforestation and desertification have led to increased land degradation, and the creation of reservoirs has, in some cases, resulted in adverse effects on ecosystems. Many of these problems have arisen from a development model that is environmentally destructive and from a lack of public awareness and education about surface and groundwater resource protection. Ecological and human health effects are the measurable consequences, although the means to monitor them are inadequate or non-existent in many countries. There is a widespread lack of perception of the linkages between the development, management, use and treatment of water resources and aquatic ecosystems. A preventive approach, where appropriate, is crucial to the avoiding of costly subsequent measures to rehabilitate, treat and develop new water supplies (18.35).

If states continue to relinquish their right to control their resources; if states become involved in Public Private Partnerships, and allow for the privatization of water sources, and fail to prevent the above itemized adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems; the global community, including co-operatives, will be impacted by the consequences resulting from the adverse effects of these unsustainable practices.

40. IMAGE: WASTE OF HUMANITY SYMBOLIZED WITHIN A TRUCK WHILE POLICE OFFICER IGNORES THE GARBAGE BUT ENFORCES A MINOR INFRACTION (CARTOON-APPROPRIATION OF RAESIDE).

In 1995, every member state of the United Nations adopted the Platform of Action, at the UN Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and made the following commitment to

ensure that all corporations including transnational corporations, comply with national laws and codes, social security regulations, applicable international agreements, instruments and conventions, including those related to the environment, and other relevant laws” (Section 167).

In 1996, every member state of the United Nations adopted the Habitat I and reinforced the commitment

To promote strategies to ensure that the private sector, including transnational corporations, complies with national laws and codes, social security regulations, applicable international agreements, instruments and conventions, including those related to the environment ...(202 e).

If states fail to enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance with statutory and international law, and if they refuse to enforce the existing national and international legislation, co-operatives will be equally penalized by the failure to enforce the law and prevent unsustainable practices.

3.5. SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS

OBJECTIVE: to promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including rights of the child, indigenous rights, rights of migrant workers, labour rights, and civil and political rights,

Since 1948, there have been numerous human rights instruments, in 1993, there was the World Conference on Human Rights. In 1993, every member state of the United Nations adopted the Conference Action plan from the World Conference on Human Rights, and thus made commitments to rectify the gross violation of human rights cited in the following statement:

the gross and systematic violations and situations constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world, such violations and obstacles included, as well as torture and cruelty, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism racial discrimination and apartheid, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights, religious intolerance, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law (C. 30).

Civil and Political Rights; right to peaceful assembly

41. IMAGE: PROTESTORS BEING ATTACKED BY POLICE OR MILITARY

In 1948, every member state of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (UNDHR) and made a commitment to ensure that

everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. (Article 20, 1, UNDHR).

Most member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1966 International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, (ICCPR) which affirmed the right of peaceful assembly:

The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are

necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others (Article 21, ICCPR).

If states continue to fail to discharge the obligation to respect the right of peaceful assembly and association, co-operatives, while maintaining their status of independence, and of being non-partisan, will not lose their status if they simply call upon states to live up to state obligations. Co-operatives can serve as an example and demonstrate that they are open to members without ... political ...discrimination. (From ICA Principle 1).

Civil and Political Rights and Freedom of expression

42. IMAGE: SPRINT SPYING PROVIDER IMAGE: NOT SO FREE EXPRESSION PHONE TAPING (CARTOON BY MIKE PETERS).

43.IMAGE: GALLAWAY AT RALLY NO-ENTRY AND NO-FLY LISTS

44. IMAGE: NO-ENTRY- MEDEA BENJAMIN VS UNCLE SAM- AND CHERTOFF

In a range of international human rights instruments, member states of the United Nations have incurred an obligation not to discriminate on the grounds of civil and political rights.

Over 60 years ago, all member states of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR), which affirmed the following:

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. (Article 19, UNDR, 1948).

Most member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1966 International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, (ICCPR) which incurred the obligation to ensure the right to freedom of expression:

This right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his [his/her] choice... (Art 19, ICCPR).

Also all states incurred the obligations to ensure that

All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (Art. 26, ICCPR, 1966).

(Art. 2, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

(Art. 2, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989).

family {2 Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons 1975}.

(Art. 7. International Convention on the protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families) (Principle 1, International Conference on Population and Development, 1994).

If states fail to act on the commitment to freedom of expression, and freedom of movement, or fail to discharge the obligation not to discriminate on the ground of “political and other opinion”; co-operatives could be impacted because there may be the perception that co-operatives are a threat to the current economic model of overconsumptive development, and they too could experience discrimination.

War Resisters and refugees

45. IMAGE: WAR RESISTER NOT GRANTED ASYLUM

In 1948, all member states of the United Nations, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and undertook in Article 14 to recognize the right to seek asylum from persecution:

Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. Article 14.

And affirmed that

This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Article 14. 1

If so-called friendly states violate international law and invade another state, and if citizens in the so-called friendly state resist the war and seek asylum, and if asylum is refused, the global community, including co-operatives, will suffer from ignoring the lesson of history when, in Nuremberg, the defence of justifying a criminal act by claiming one was just following orders, was rejected. Also no one can ever forget the famous statement of Pastor Niemoller.

Rights of the Child

46. IMAGE CHILD PEEING ON THE MILITARY MISPLACED SPENDING PRIORITIES PRIMACY OF WANTS OF THE MILITARY OVER THE NEEDS OF THE CHILD

Most member states of the United Nations, signed and ratified the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, and under this Convention, states incurred the following obligation to act with urgency to address the plight of children around the world, and were concerned profoundly

that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of inadequate social conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, illiteracy, hunger and disability, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for and needed (Preamble).

And recognized

for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with their national law (Art. 1).

And recognized

the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties (24.1).

And incurred the obligation to

pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures: to combat disease and malnutrition including within the framework of primary health care, through inter alia the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequately nutritious foods and clean drinking water (24.2.c).

If states fail to discharge this obligation, co-operatives will be affected by the failure, of states, to comply with this Convention. To facilitate the implementation of the ICA principle of international co-operation in the promotion of sustainability through human rights, co-operatives could urge governments to guarantee, for children, the right to social security the right to health care, and the right to education, the right to safe drinking water, and the right to food. Co-operatives could also expose inadequate social conditions, and call upon governments to counter natural disasters, prevent armed conflicts, end exploitation, illiteracy, hunger and disability. Co-operatives that operate internationally would have to ensure that children are not exploited by any of the producers in their supply chain.

Intergenerational equity and rights of future generation

47. IMAGE GUANAJUATO INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT WORLD HERITAGE SITE

48. IMAGE; GIRL AND BOY AND UNCERTAIN FUTURE [if you love this planet]

Most member states of the United Nations have signed and ratified the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Under this Convention states incurred an obligation to preserve cultural and natural heritage for future generations, and noted

that the cultural heritage and the natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction (preamble).

And considered

that in view of the magnitude and gravity of the new dangers threatening them, it is incumbent on the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value. (Preamble).

And reaffirmed that

Man [humans] must acquire the knowledge to maintain and enhance their ability to use natural resources in a manner that ensures the preservation of the species and ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations (Preamble).

In 1994, every member state of the United Nations adopted the International Conference on Population and Development, and affirmed that

Ecological problems, such as global climate change, largely driven by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, are adding to the threats to the well-being of future generations. (Preamble, 1.2 International Conference on Population and Development, 1994).

If states do not respect the rights of future generations to their ecological heritage, states are violating the essence of what constitutes the formulation of the principle of “Sustainable Development”. The principle of Sustainable Development affirmed that the rights of present generations should never compromise the rights of future generations (a paraphrase). The contravention by states of the principle of sustainable development will impede the ability of Co-operatives to fulfill their principles related to sustainable development and sustainability.

Women’s Rights

49. IMAGE; WOMEN SILENCED

50. IMAGE; NEITHER ABORTION NOR CARE FOR UNWED MOTHERS (CARTOON).

Most member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1975 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the protocol related to violence against women. The signatories of the Convention expressed concern

that despite these various instruments [human rights instruments] extensive discrimination against women continues to exist, (Preamble).

And undertook

to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify *or* abolish existing laws, regulations customs and practices that constitute discrimination against women; (Art 2).

And to embody

the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other [appropriate] legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other [appropriate] means, the practical realization of this principle (Art 2).

In 1994, every member state of the United Nations adopted the International Conference on Population and Development which called for

Special education and public information efforts are needed to promote equal treatment of girls and boys with respect to nutrition, health care, education and social, economic and political activity, as well as equitable inheritance rights (Actions 4.17, 1994).

If states fail to discharge the obligations under CEDAW, co-operatives can use the provisions in CEDAW, to urge governments to finally achieve gender equality. Co-operatives can serve as an example of enterprises that are open to members without gender, ... discrimination. (From ICA Principle 1).

Right to not be discriminated on the ground of race

51. IMAGE “EUROPEANS ONLY: WHITE WOMAN SITTING ON BENCH FROM HOUSE OF BONDAGE EUROPEAN SUPERIORITY

52. IMAGE BENCH IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH WORDS INSCRIBED “EUROPEANS ONLY”

Most of the member states of the United Nations signed and ratified the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and reaffirmed:

that discrimination between human beings on the grounds of race, colour or ethnic origin is an obstacle to peaceful relations and that discrimination between human beings on the grounds of race, colour or ethnic origin is an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations among nations and is capable of disturbing peace and security among peoples and the harmony of persons living side by side even within one and the same State (Preamble).

And were convinced:

that the existence of racial barriers is repugnant to the ideals of any human society (Preamble).

And resolved:

to adopt all necessary measures for speedily eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations, and to prevent and combat racist doctrines and practices in order to promote understanding between races and to build an international community free from all forms of racial segregation and racial discrimination (Preamble).

And under Art 4, all the signatories agreed that they

Shall declare an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and also the provision of any assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof; (Art. 4., 1965).

If states do not comply with this Convention, co-operatives can use the convention to urge states to enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance. Co-operatives, through implementing the ICA principle 1 that there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, will be able to set an example.

Rights of indigenous peoples

53. IMAGE MEXICAN OIL US STRATEGIC IRREVERSIBLE DESTRUCTION OF INDIGENOUS LAND CORPORATE INTERESTS HAVE PRIMACY OVER CULTURE

54. IMAGE: TWO FIRST NATIONS DO WE REALLY WANT THE LAND BACK

55. IMAGE: INDIGENOUS ISSUES; DISPLACEMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

Some states signed and ratified the 1990 Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries No. 169, and affirmed that

“Indigenous and tribal peoples shall enjoy the full measure of human rights and fundamental freedoms without hindrance or discrimination. The provisions of the Convention shall be applied without discrimination to male and female indigenous peoples.” (Art. 3).

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member state of the United Nations adopted Chapter 26, Indigenous Rights, of Agenda 21, made a commitment to protect

the lands of indigenous people and their communities ... from activities that are environmentally unsound or that the indigenous people concerned consider to be socially and culturally inappropriate (26.3. ii).

All member states, except Canada, US and New Zealand, adopted the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and expressed concern

that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests, (Preamble).

And recognized

the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources, (preamble).

Recognized also

the urgent need to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States,

And convinced

that control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs,

And affirmed

the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³ and international human rights law. (Article 1).

And affirmed that

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development (Article 3).

And affirmed that

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions. (Art. 4).

And that

States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial

objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective (Article 12. 2).

If states fail to ratify the Convention and fail to adopt, and implement the articles of the Declaration; if indigenous peoples are continually discriminated against and displaced; co-operatives, because of their principles of social justice and solidarity, will be well placed, to urge states to comply with the Convention and the Declaration

Migrant workers rights

56. IMAGE: BORDER WALL BETWEEN PREVENTING ENTRY

States whose citizens are migrant workers have generally signed and ratified, the 1983 International Convention on the protection of the Rights of all Migrant workers and members of their families; whereas the states whose country is the recipient of migrant workers have not signed and ratified the Convention.

Signatories of the Convention are convinced

that the rights of migrant workers and members of their families have not been sufficiently recognized everywhere and therefore require appropriate international protection (Preamble)

And convinced

Convinced that the rights of migrant workers and members of their families have not been sufficiently recognized everywhere and therefore require appropriate international protection (Preamble. International Convention on the protection of the Rights of all Migrant workers and members of their families).

And recognized:

the progress made by certain States on a regional or bilateral basis towards the protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families, as well as the importance and usefulness of bilateral and multilateral agreements in this field (Preamble).

If states refuse to sign and ratify the Convention, and fail to ensure the protection of migrant workers and their families, co-operatives, through co-operating at the international level will be well placed to urge governments to comply with the convention

Labour Rights

57. IMAGE: EXPLOITATION OF LABOUR

Most member states of the United Nations have signed and ratified very few of the over 185 International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions. Since co-operative members are both workers and owners, most of the Conventions do not apply.

In 2008 ILO Recommendation 193 for the Promotion of Co-operatives was adopted at the international labour conference.

In the months since, the ILO co-op team has worked with governments and co-op bodies to help translate the recommendation into practice at the national level. (www.ILO.org).

If states fail to promote ILO Recommendation 193 for the Protection of Co-operatives, and if states fail to sign and ratify other ILO Conventions, co-operatives will have a chance to co-operate nationally, and internationally with labour to urge governments to comply with state commitments and obligations.

3.6 SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PEACE

OBJECTIVE: to achieve a state of peace, and disarmament; through reallocation of military expenses, and to create a global structure that respects the rule of law and the International Court of Justice;

Military expenses and war games

58. IMAGE: MISPLACED SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR ARMS NOT SOCIAL JUSTICES [funds for military not for the homeless and hungry]

59. IMAGE: CARTOON CAPTAIN AMERICA -BUSH AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IGNORING THE PLEAS FROM THE SOUTH

60. IMAGE; USS Lincoln WAR GAMES AS PROPAGANDA FOR WAR

In 1976, Every member state of the United Nations adopted the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat I. Thus, thirty-three years ago, every member state of the United Nations, acknowledged the following:

The waste and misuse of resources in war and armaments should be prevented. All countries should make a firm commitment to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament. part of the resources thus released should be utilized so as to achieve a better quality of life for humanity and particularly for the peoples of developing countries”(I, 12)

Also in 1976, every member state of the UN made a pledge to accept that there existed the duty of all people and Governments to join the struggle against any form of colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, domination, apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination referred to in the resolutions as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

And concurred that

The establishment of settlements in territories occupied by force is illegal. it is condemned by the international community. However, action still remains to be taken against the establishment of such settlements. (II, 4).

In 1985, at the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategy for the Advancement of Women, every state concurred that

Safeguarding world peace and averting a nuclear catastrophe is one of the most important tasks today in which women have an essential role to play, especially by supporting actively the

halting of the arms race followed by arms reduction and the attainment of a general and complete disarmament under effective international control... (Par 250).

Most member states of the United Nations have signed and ratified the international Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, and have agreed, under Article 2.1 that :

Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law

In 1992, at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), every member of the United Nations adopted the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. Under the Declaration, every state made the following commitment:

to reallocate resources presently committed to military purposes(33.18e).

If developed states have continued to fail to reallocate the military budget and to transfer the peace dividend to the developing states; if states continue to choose to spend funds on military rather than on providing food, housing, health care, safe drinking water, safe sewage disposal, education etc; if NATO states continue to engage in war games in defiance of the prohibition of propaganda for war: co-operatives, through international co-operation with co-operatives in different states will be able to urge government to adjust their misplaced spending priorities, and to reallocate their expenses to ensure for social justice.

Science and Technology for benefit of humanity

60, IMAGE: B52 PLANES [MADE AVAILABLE AS WALL PAPER IN US]

In 1975, many states adopted the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind [Humanity]. These states have noted:

with concern that scientific and technological achievements can be used to intensify the arms race, suppress national liberation movements and deprive individuals and peoples of their human rights and fundamental needs.

Have also noted with concern

that scientific and technological achievements can entail dangers for the civil and political rights of the individual or the groups and for human dignity.

If states disregard this fundamental commitment and continue to produce arms and military hardware, to exhibit armaments, to engage in war games, to establish military bases, to circulate nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessel etc; co-operatives could, use the commitments in this Declaration to justify accessing funds to develop science and technology to further the benefit of humanity, and to ensure that none of the co-operative research is channeled through “reverse engineering” into products that are harmful to humanity.

61. IMAGE: CARTOON- CHECKS AND BALANCE DISFUNCTIONAL UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Every member State of the United Nations has adopted the Charter of the United Nations, and under the Charter, States have undertaken

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind [humanity]
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

The method, however, to fulfill these obligations, is flawed because the responsibility falls on the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council, when confronted with an existing conflict, immediately moves to Chapter VII under which justification for supporting an invasion can arise. The Council does not usually go to Chapter VI- -the peaceful resolution of disputes, which has a provision for seeking advice from the International Court of Justice.

In addition, the UN Security Council, with its five permanent members having a veto, has violated the fundamental principle of the Charter of the United Nations: the sovereign equality of states. To fulfill this principle, the UN Security Council should be disbanded and the UN General Assembly, which embodies the principle of sovereign equality should be the governing body. Too often at the UN Security Council there has been cajoling, intimidating and cheque-book diplomacy to procure the desired vote.

63. IMAGE: CARTOON ; HYPOCRISY OF IGNORING THE OBVIOUS: NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ISRAEL

Many states ratified the Non Proliferation Treaty, which came into force in 1970. The essence of NPT was a treaty between two classes of adherents, the “nuclear weapon states” (NWS) i.e. those who had detonated nuclear weapons prior to 1967 i.e.. US, Britain, France, China, and USSR [note also the permanent members of the UN Security Council] and the “Non nuclear weapon states” (NWS) those who had not. Now there are at least three other nuclear arms powers: India, Pakistan, and Israel, and perhaps others.

Under Article VI of the NPT, the signatories have committed

to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.

The NWS states have not fulfilled their obligation under Article VI of the treaty, to reduce their arsenals. At the 2009, meeting of the NPT in New York, many delegations mentioned the double standard where Iran was criticized for potentially developing nuclear weapons, but the nuclear weapons in Israel were ignored. In 1984, many states made a commitment to peace through the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace approved by General Assembly resolution and in this Declaration, each state:

Emphasized that ensuring the exercise of the right of peoples to peace demands that the policies of States be directed towards the elimination of the threat of war, particularly nuclear war, the renunciation of the use of force in international relations and the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations; (3).

If nuclear arms states fail to fulfill their obligations, under the Non Proliferation Treaty; if the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is responsible for monitoring the

development of nuclear arms, does not inspect the nuclear arsenal of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council; if the IAEA continues to promote the so-called peaceful use of civil nuclear energy and ignores the inextricable link between civil nuclear energy and the development of nuclear arms, and if the double standard about which states can or cannot possess nuclear weapons persists: then all global society, including co-operatives, will be imperiled.

64. IMAGE GW BUSH WITH MESSAGE FROM MICHEANGELO'S GOD: WAR ON TERRORISM

There has never been a UN definition of terrorism; there has been a continual debate about excluding freedom fighters, and about including state terrorism. Many states have wanted to include a statement stressing the need to make a distinction between terrorism and the exercise of legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation. Other states have wanted to exempt from the Convention actions during an armed conflict, including in situations of foreign occupation. The US has taken a lead in opposing the inclusion of these statement.

If states continue to fail to prevent the underlying causes of conflict; if states are obsessed with the war on terror; if states, in collusion with corporations, including transnational corporations continue, in the relentless pursuit of natural resources, to destabilize other states; if states have a shortness of institutional memory and condone aggression, including through preventive/pre-emptive attack, or through “regime change”; the global community, including co-operatives cannot remain completely “independent”.

65. IMAGE: UN PROCLAMATION FOR TRANSLATING INTO ACTION UN TRANSLATING RHETORIC INTO ACTION

In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development every member state of the United Nations, adopted Agenda 21 and the first statement of the preamble of Agenda 21 reflected the urgency of the global situation:

Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystem on which we depend for our well being (Preamble, Agenda 21)

If states continue to refuse to translate rhetoric into action, it is time for the global civil society, including co-operatives to be bold, to demand compliance with obligations and commitments, and to advocate a International Court of Compliance, under the aegis of the International Court of Justice, where global citizens including those that belong to Co-operatives can take evidence of state and corporate non-compliance with international law.

4. CONCLUSION:

If states were compelled to discharge obligations, and act on Commitments, co-operatives would be able to better implement their principles of sustainability and international cooperation.