

# **AFRICA CONFERENCE ON THE RIGHT TO WATER MAY 12 TO 14, 2003, ACCRA, GHANA.**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Day 1 May 12**

#### **OPENING ADDRESS**

The conference deliberations commenced with opening remarks from Charles Abugre, Executive Director of ISODEC. He chronicled how the efforts of the Integrated Social Development centre (ISODEC) and later the Ghana National Coalition Against the Privatisation of Water, with the help of the international civil society successfully brought into the public domain the hitherto secret, corporate-driven, World Bank pressurised, fast-tracked, Ghana government water privatisation agenda.

This exposure put both the Bank and the Ghana Government on the defensive and forced them to debate the issues publicly. Mr. Abugre took the opportunity to congratulate the thousands of activists across Ghana, and indeed the entire world without whose sacrifice the modest gains chalked in Ghana against the privatisers would have been impossible. The Trades Union Congress and the National Union of Ghana Students came in for special mention. He lamented that the imposition of privatisation and the oppressive conditionalities of international finance capital continues to weigh heavily on developing countries, whose compliance is no longer just being solicited, but extorted by the impunity of military might.

Charles concluded that despite the gloomy times, the small victories against water privatisation in Ghana and elsewhere are encouraging, and may be the forerunners to complete victory.

#### **First Panel**

#### **Topic: “Putting the Issues in Perspective: After Kyoto What Next?”**

The first panel featured two panellists who tackled water privatisation concerns in the aftermath of Kyoto. The first panellist, Ms Wenonah<sup>1</sup> Hauter, lauded the Ghana group’s modest success in rolling back the looming privatisation programme. She castigated the role of the international financial institutions and the global water corporations, highlighting their rapacious nature worldwide, the turmoil they have created even in developed countries such as the U.S.A.

She did not mince her words, using “criminal country with thugs in it” “leech suckers” “major mafia” to describe the perpetrators of privatisation. She asked the participants to be encouraged by the fact that the corporate water suckers are retreating and trading compromises everywhere in the face of resistance. She said alternatives to

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<sup>1</sup> **Wenonah Hauter**, director of Public Citizen’s Critical Mass Energy and Environment Program, anthropologist and expert on energy and regulatory issues.

Kyoto, including the present conference, have come out with better ideas and that the movement against water privatisation is gathering momentum.

The second presenter Alhassan Adam of the NCAP secretariat analysed the spurious solutions and obvious distortions contained in the World Water Commission report entitled "Financing Water for all". It uses terms like Devaluation, Backstopping, and Liquidity going for the low-hanging fruits to disguise the same old exploitation of the helpless. Discussions and reactions from participants followed.

## **Second Panel**

### **Topic: "Gender, Poverty and Water Privatisation in Africa"**

The gender perspective to water privatisation was admirably outlined by two presenters: Miss Zo Randrianamaro of TWN-Africa secretariat and Miss Elizabeth Eilor of AWEAPON [UGANDA]. Using Ghana as her focus, miss Randrianamaro outlined the grievous cost privatisation can exact on women. Women who bear the burden of providing water for household use are now spending more on water as a result of sharp increases in the price of water following the introduction of increased full cost recovery principles. Women are spending less on the education of their children. A sizable number of them are also resorting to shallow hand-dug wells as sources of drinking water to save money thus greatly compromising the health of their families.

Miss Eilor said the situation in Uganda is no different. Water for domestic use is considered the responsibility of women. An upward adjustment in the price of water impacts severely on the pockets of women and reduces their ability to live decently. Privatisation also tends to focus on urban water while the peri-urban and rural folk who are far much more poorer are left to their own devices.

The moderator of the panel Miss Hamedata Deedat in her summary said the South African water access situation too has similar problems. She said several years after apartheid there is still deep poverty particularly among the black population with women suffering the most. She said all human beings have the right to water where price become a barrier to access then the state ought to intervene in support of the poor. Universal access to water cannot be left to the charity of private operators.

## **COUNTRY REPORTS**

The afternoon session featured the nature of the privatisation process in various countries including Senegal, Ghana, Congo Brazzaville, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Europe (Britain), Uganda and the U.S.A. Notably, the growing influence of civil society groups in the fight was highlighted, as well as the increasing tendency of water multinational corporations to force management service contracts on poor countries using the World Bank as leverage to avoid investment risks. The Ghana country report indicated that the government and the WB are now considering a 3-year management service contract followed by a long-term lease. Questions and contributions centred on the need for a unified struggle taking advantage of the common as well as the diverse experiences emerging through out the continent.

## Day 2 – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2003

The proceedings kicked off with a flipchart representation of the full conference session of views, comments and opinions as to the best way forward to achieve greater success in the struggle. The day's proceedings were refreshingly vibrant and of greater thematic depth on the issues confronting the conference.

Lamine Ndiaye, the Oxfam Trade and Campaign officer based in Dakar – Senegal, who moderated the first plenary session, suggested the modification of the conference title to "*Africa Conference on the right to universal access to safe drinking water*" instead of the present title: "Africa conference on the right to water". His organisation is also encouraging through this conference the facilitation of the integration of francophone countries and organisations into the debate.

### **Panel One**

**Topic: "Corporate Globalisation and the Scramble for Africa's Water: Scrutinising the roles of the Bretton Woods Institutions and the Donor Community"**

Scrutinising the roles of the international financial institutions and their links with the donor community in the corporate globalisation and the scramble for Africa's water was the theme informing this 1<sup>st</sup> plenary session.

The first panellist – Mr. Charles Abugre, discussed the important roles the IFIs play and the complex institutional arrangements facing globalisation. Their first role is that of gatekeepers or centurions for global finance in the interest of global capital. He stressed that though these institutions might sometimes cancel debts, they invariably impose conditionalities to guarantee repayment in such a manner that poor countries literally pay with their blood. Since the USA and to some extent the G-8, is the greatest shareholder of the WB, and are themselves driven by corporate interests, then inevitably, corporate interests would drive world financial organisations.

Indeed the IMF is considered an extension of the US Treasury. On Foreign Direct Investment [FDI], he that African countries have been made to believe that they cannot do without it. The FDI myth is one of the means by which "we have been mentally enslaved" he emphasised. Another myth is that support from the IFIs impacts directly on the macro-economic framework. This is false. The end result of this dependence is that IMF has arbitrary powers to assess your risk status and use it for leveraging – i.e. providing you with a tiny amount of your needs and using this to impose entire control over your policies. Another form of control is through budgetary policies.

Monopolistic ideas such as the "there is no alternative [TINA] to structural adjustment", "the state has no business doing business", "privatisation is the key to development" etc become the prescriptive policy framework for Africa. This monopolisation of ideas takes several forms, through university research results, attaching action plans to invented sector policies which in their turn need borrowed financing, and poring over the budgets even before they are read to us. The latest instrument of control and of the promotion of strategic networks ostensibly to support

Africa's development is NEPAD. The last straw that may break the African's back is their control of our domestic savings in the form of commercial banks. Public Commercial and development banks are divested and sold to so-called strategic advisers from outside. Pension funds that ought to be available for investment in essential services are literally sucked out of the system through all kinds of capital account liberalisation measures under the supervision of the IMF.

The most dangerous thing is that our governments are more accountable to these institutions than they are to their own people. Even our elected parliaments are manipulated to pass laws to legalise the illegitimate. The IFIs create investment gaps and then offer to fill them. By so doing they determine the movement of funds into the areas that they choose. These institutions ensure that public utilities are not funded so as to have an excuse to privatise them.

Mr. Gyekye Tanoh of the national secretariat of the Coalition against the privatisation of water was the next presenter. He came down hard on the policy convergence between the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organisation [WTO] to ensure that neo-liberalisation, though we have seen its sterile results, survive. He noted the unequal global power relations that have turned otherwise public-spirited leaders into turncoats and gaping sycophants overnight, as in Kenya and Ghana. He said the question of water privatisation should be abandoned altogether since its logic is poisonous and exclusionary. He said the efficiency principle related to privatisation is dangerously false as there is monumental evidence of private sector inefficiency, corruption and failure as ENRON and WORLDCOM amply demonstrated.

It is not private sector involvement per se but its present questionable form of selfish private ownership – that is the most serious problem. The debate is not about refusing to encourage subordinate sub-contractors in the water system. It is ceding control of the whole superstructure to private owners, whether local or foreign. Under the guise of leaseholds, beneficial ownership, control and management are ceded to private profiteers. Public funds should not be used to fund private profit. If there must be a public debt then it must be for the public good. The existing slavish paradigm of “foreign is good, local is bad” must be debunked.

Local initiatives such the water committees in parts of Latin America and Public [state]-community partnerships such as the Ghana water company /Savelugu township partnership are pointers to alternatives to privatisation and could be important instruments of interaction and management.

## **Second panel.**

### **Topic: “Countering the Scramble for Africa's Water: Drawing Alternatives from our experience”**

The next presentations focussed on the local alternatives to the corporate takeovers of Africa's water by the multinational giants. Messrs Abu Subuniman, President of the Association of Water and Sanitation Boards and Patrick Apoya, Executive director of the Community Partnerships for Health and Development did a joint presentation. The presenters illustrated their case studies from first-hand experience.

Their main task was to explode myths put up by privatisation of water promoters. They underlined that it is not just large financial bodies that can offer finance to needy communities; local financing alternatives such as the use of pension funds can do so too. Also it is not true that just because water is managed publicly, it is inefficient. They cited Stockholm water and East Bay water in Oakland [USA] as two of numerous successful publicly managed utilities.

They also pointed out that local expertise is often undervalued and disregarded to create the pretext for Vivendi, Suez Lyonnaise, Biwater and the like to takeover. Mr. Abu pointed out that the fact that community managed systems such as that of Bimbilla in the Northern region of Ghana and Mafi-Kumasi in the Volta region have survived and are doing well is illustrative of what communities can do for themselves if public policy is on their side. The so-called illiterate communities can manage their own finances and recover tariffs with appropriate quality control oversight and little government funding.

In any case it is the primary responsibility of governments to provide essential services to citizens. No responsible government can run away from this. Communities can help governments do this efficiently and effectively by helping to address the governance issues. It is therefore unfortunate, that despite the admirable way these communities have managed things for themselves government and the WB are not talking of replication but rather privatisation. The public-public partnership idea should be pursued as an alternative.

### **The Senegalese context**

The presenter, Mrs. Adjaratou Ndiaye of Aid Transparency regretted the untransparent manner in which water has been privatised in Dakar. Consultation with civil society was absent and negotiations were secret and between the government and the French companies only. Because privatisation had been largely a back door affair the people are ignorant of the process and therefore it is difficult to know whether they are for or against. She said one obvious fact is that water privatisation has brought about dramatic increases in the price of water and this is causing agitation among the population.

### **South African context**

Mr. Ebrahim Harvey a renowned trade unionist, writer and researcher gave a brief presentation on water privatisation in the South African context.

He said drinking water is largely supplied by public utilities in South Africa he added however that the ANC has reneged from its electoral promise not to privatise water and has permitted privatisations such as that involving Biwater in Nelspruit. In the Johannesburg area the introduction of private sector participation in the form of a management service contract has brought with it full cost recovery principles and the profit motive has become the dominant factor determining the delivery of water and sanitation services. This has resulted in a sharp escalation in the price of water and has created its own difficulties in spite of a lifeline and a constitutional guarantee of the right to water.

The anti-privatisation movement in South Africa is militant and fairly large, relying as it does on the South Africa Municipal Workers Union [SAMWU] and other working class forces. Human rights activists and environmentalists also support the anti-privatisation movement.

The South African experience with prepaid water meters has been disastrous. It has excluded the poor who cannot prepay for their water and created resistance in the communities.

Mr Harvey said recent research findings has demonstrated at great length the unquestionably raw deal the poor black people of this city and the country, the overwhelming majority of the total population, have received in the closely related areas of water, sanitation and housing. Mr. Harvey said there is firm evidence to suggest the commodification and commercialisation of water and sanitation services in Johannesburg, as elsewhere, has been nothing less than brutally alienating, disempowering and crushing in its effects on the poor majority. We have also seen that the debates about water and sanitation, as with other municipal services, must move beyond the hackneyed divide between privatisation and nationalisation in more general terms and begin to study more closely how even under the rubric of 'public ownership' poor people are being exploited by a commercialised service delivery framework.

Capitalists have devised new ways to make money without calling for outright privatisation of municipal assets and are penetrating every nook and cranny to make a profit while governments continue to retain legal and formal ownership of services. This is precisely what a management contract does and participants better be forewarned. But perhaps an even more disturbing matter is the secrecy and confidentiality surrounding so much of the activities of private service providers.

He narrated how in the City of Johannesburg, as a result of the management service contract entered into with a private international water consortium, the elected politicians who have committed themselves to openness and transparency have collaborated with private actors to deny him the right to access certain documents which relate to water and sanitation services in the course of his research. He had no doubt that the entry of the private sector into water service provision in the city has led, among other negative consequences, to the withholding of information, and thereby negating the right of citizens to know what is happening with water and sanitation services in their city.

He disclosed that the policy framework for the corporatization of water services and the involvement of the private sector was established in a whole host of legislation since 1994 and this coupled with the formation of the Johannesburg Water company and the subsequent management contract it signed with JOWAM, have combined to create an environment in which the subjection of water and sanitation services to the raw power of money has brutalised the service itself as is evident particularly in the informal settlements.

It is time that governments accept the fact water is a human right and therefore deserve a special place in National budgets. For example whereas the capital expenditure budget for Johannesburg water stood at only R200 million the Minister

of Finance allocated R10 billion in the 2003 budget for black business development. If we proceed from the irrefutable premise that fulfilling basic water and sanitation needs is probably the most important public policy priority, for at least the alleviation of poverty, then these budgetary discrepancies are plainly unjustifiable and tell much about the class disposition of the new black ruling elite.

## **Recommendations**

Mr. Harvey concluded with some recommendations, which he said though are borne out of the Johannesburg experience, is nevertheless relevant for the rest of Africa. While it is true that in the broader scheme of power relations these recommendations would probably mean little or nothing for public policy development and management – which in the final analysis this presentation is all about – it is hoped that it will provide the basis for a review of the decision to corporatise the water and wastewater services in the City of Johannesburg and also, importantly, that it serves to dissuade other cities in Africa from following a similar route.

The City must move outside of its established, bureaucratically controlled and top-down ‘participatory’ structures and processes – such as the ‘city-wide forums’, ward committees and integrated development plans – and instead convene a genuine people’s summit of trade unions, community organisations and all other organisations of ‘civil society’ in the city, to discuss the deplorable situation of water and sanitation services in low income areas and informal settlements. Those in these areas who have borne the brunt of the commercialisation of water and sanitation services in the city must have their own representatives.

The unions and community organisations that have opposed the iGoli 2002 plan and the commercialisation of water and sanitation services and who have been marginalized by it must have their representatives at such a summit. It is there that representations on the six-kilolitre lifeline and the current water and sanitation levels of service and other related matters could be thrashed out. The City needs to reach out to its opponents and be informed by those on the other side of the policy discourse.

He concluded that it is dangerous to put essential services particularly water in the hands of private corporations who are accountable to shareholders. These corporations are evil – they put one foot in the private sector and another in the public sector so that they can have the best of both worlds. African governments must settle down to the fact poverty eradication will remain a pipe so long as water and sanitation are managed as if they were commodities in a super market.

## **Public Forum.**

The third panel of the day was held in public.

### **Topic: “Trading away the right to water: how international trade agreements enforce the privatisation of essential services”**

The above broad topic run through deliberations at the Teachers’ Hall located in the centre of Accra where a public forum was held to allow for public participation in the conference. The hall was jammed to the full underscoring the significance of the

water struggle. Significant among the audience were youth groups from some of the poorest communities in Accra-Sukura, Nima, Mamobi and Korle-Gornu.

Mr. Akoto Ampaw, a private legal practitioner and a coordinator of Jubilee South in Ghana was the first presenter. He discussed the historical evolution of private capital and globalisation and the ideological mind washing that has made it possible for the forces of corporate globalisation to present the phenomena as inevitable and irreversible. He pointed out that the unholy trio – World Bank, IMF and WTO, have achieved the status of states without the responsibilities of the state, thus making them powerful without been accountable. They promote very narrow economic interests under the guise of the need for policy convergence and a dubious development paradigm that ensures that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the world remain poor in order to sustain the greed of the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$ . He called for fundamental changes in the charters of the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO to make them democratic and responsive to the felt development needs of member states, otherwise their existence is not necessary. He called on the participants to take grassroots work seriously as the power of the masses remain the most potent instrument of change.

Wenonah Hauter, the next presenter again exposed the “sneaking imperialism” in the guise of trade agreements that basically remove the ability of our governments to manage their developments plans. The WTO for example has enormous judicial and legislative powers that it has used from time to time to whip governments who try to respond to the trade and development needs of their people into line. She said recent corporate failures in the US show unequivocally that the so-called greater efficiency of the multi-national corporations is false. She said multi-national corporations are seeking to substitute themselves for governments whilst rejecting the processes by which governments come into being. The fight must be waged urgently. She called on participants to urge their governments to reject the GATS framework as it will not only kill existing service delivery capacity in developing countries but will perpetually lock them into an unfair global system that will be difficult to unlock. “Can you imagine the day that you will have to buy water from a service station as we do now with gas? “ “I bet you that unless we stop them now we will soon be buying water from pumping stations owned by Vivendi, Suez Lyonnaise, Biwater, RWE etc”

The next to speak was Hameda Didat. She reiterated the points made by the earlier speakers. She warned that if Africans sleep and allow their ministers to sign away their birth rights through privatisation they would have to pay dearly in future especially when it comes to taking the assets back. She cited Bolivia as an example where even after the defeat of Bechtel in Cochabamba they still fell on dubious international agreements to sue the government for “expected profits”.

GATS will be problematic for the following reasons: -

- *Under the GATS privatisation will be the norm and the public sector could disappear completely. She used the case of the transport sector as example of what could happen. GATS could also make the reversal of privatisations even where they are regrettable difficult due to the GATS framework that is structured to discourage reversals.*
- *She explained that if social movements succeed in stopping privatisation as happened in Cochabamba the defeated companies could sue for estimated or expected profits.*



- *GATS as a WTO agreement will allow private water companies to be exempted from complying with national laws around municipal services if they consider those laws or regulations as inhibiting or discriminatory in favour of local companies e.g. the lifeline of 6kl of water in South Africa can become an issue for litigation.*
- *Lastly, Kwesi Owusu of Southern Links in his presentation pointed out that the fight is even more justified because water is a spiritual and religious need as well. He called upon faith-based organisations to support the Ghana coalition by encouraging their members to join the local action committees.*

### **Day 3 - 14-05-03**

#### **Topic: “Protecting our environment and planning for the future: the legalities, the realities and the concerns”**

This panel consisted of a sole presenter. The proceedings started with some observations by Mr Rudolf Amenga-Etego, Campaign Coordinator of the National Coalition Against the Privatisation of Water. He lamented that even though the Water Resources Commission [WRC] in Ghana is a public body, it is increasingly dominated by private corporate interests especially with regard to the commercial use of fresh mineral water resources. He regretted that even though the WRC is statutorily required to regulate the use of our fresh water bodies to ensure a balanced and sustainable use, it is increasingly pandering to private water companies and the possibility of fresh bulk water export in the future cannot be ruled out. The rate at which the WRC is issuing out licences to private corporations such as coca cola to bottle spring water for both the local and foreign market is alarming. This is the trend all over Africa.

He suggested that companies like coca cola and the mining companies that tend to use huge amounts of water that would otherwise be available for domestic use should be levied to support domestic supply. He suggested that even though supply side solutions are ultimately preferable, Commercial vehicle washing companies for example could use untreated water as a matter of policy. He said also that huge plantation agriculture for export is a huge waste of fresh water. Through export-oriented agriculture African countries have become net exporters of fresh water to the rich northern countries.

Mr Thomas Akabzaa, a lecturer in the department of geology at the University Of Ghana who was the sole presenter said water and Land cannot be separated, policies affecting water must therefore harmonise with policies affecting the use of land including land for mining purposes. He lamented that corporate greed is fast becoming the chief determinant of economic policy rather than the principles of sustainable and equitable development.

He said developments in the mining sector have many parallels with what is happening in the mining sector. For example, the alleged efficiency of the private sector is the common excuse for privatisation enough private sector failures abound. Secondly “cherry picking” is always the norm. In the case of water prime urban areas are invariably hived off and offloaded to the private sector while the poor peri-urban and rural areas left to their own devices. Similarly the rich mining areas are doled out

to the multi-national corporations leaving the less endowed areas to the local miners. The result is capital flight through capital account liberalization. Mining companies in Ghana are allowed by law to keep 71% of their earnings in foreign accounts for their own use.

Is it not ironic that a government which is cash-trapped is required to divest itself of its most lucrative foreign exchange earner and to create long tax holidays for the companies taking over with generous profit repatriation laws to boot? As I talk the government of Ghana is divesting itself of its golden shares in Ashanti Gold fields, all kinds of privateers and speculators are staging mock takeovers to position themselves to subvert the bidding process and to create further basis to extend their tax holidays. This is made worse by the failure of government to provide regulatory framework around mining. So you see, the government can't do business so its ability to mobilise capital for investment in social infrastructure such as in water is reduced and this becomes the excuse for the WB to impose loans predicated on privatisation. Ding dong, isn't it?

Then there is the issue of pollution. The liberalisation of the mining sector has resulted in the drying up of water-bodies due to huge increases in the amount of water pumped for mining purposes. The pollution of Water bodies has reached an alarming proportion in the western region of Ghana where surface mining is has become the norm. Rivers that are important sources of drinking water for some communities in the Takoradi and Tarkwa areas have particularly high cyanide levels. Environmental management is de-emphasised to attract these miners. The pollution of fresh water bodies has added to the cost of water treatment for drinking thus creating avoidable pressure on the budget of the water company. The sad thing is that our policy makers appear to know very little about these machinations and "419 double slaps".

Another phenomenon, which is the stock-in-trade of liberalisation and privatisation, is the massive layoffs of employees. Between Tarkwa and Prestea alone about 4000 lost their jobs similar to the 4000 workers projected to lose their jobs if Ghana water is privatised. Expatriate workers have however increased significantly. The battle to stop water privatisation should better be won or else everything else is lost. Strategising Session – Moderated by Bishop Akolgo, deputy executive director of ISODEC.

Before the participants went into group discussions Kwesi Owusu of Southern Links did a 10-minute presentation on campaign strategy. He emphasised the following:

- *That information is very important as a catalyst of mobilisation so time should be spent putting out as much information as possible into the public domain as an integral part of mass mobilisation.*
- *The mass media must be cultivated as a strategic ally in information dissemination.*
- *Subgroups should be formed to pick up thematic issues*
- *Local languages should be used as much as possible with content simplified and presented in episodes for effectiveness.*
- *Drama, theatre, folklore etc should be used. Filmmakers should be engaged to make documentaries for popular viewing in theatre houses. Artistes in general should be cultivated as strategic allies.*

After Kwesi Owusu's presentation participants divided into groups to discuss the following: -

- Forging linkages
- Strengthening regional/international solidarity
- Information and Research
- Resource mobilisation

### **Sub-regional/regional linkages**

- How do we achieve West African coordination on the anti-privatisation cause on water?
- How do we achieve an Africa-wide coalition?
- What are the strategies to adopt to be able to bring together national interests and build regional networks?
- What will be the mechanism for disseminating information and coordinating research?

The groups broadly agreed that there was the need to set up national and sub-regional coalitions to stop the privatisation of essential services. NCAP should serve as the provisional secretariat to coordinate the sub-regional coalitions and serve as a hub for information dissemination. To achieve this, it was agreed that:

- *Coalitions based in individual countries would be greatly strengthened if they networked with other coalitions in other countries to form bigger coalitions.*
- *Organising the labour force as the NCAP has done will greatly strengthen the campaign*
- *Since translation of documents is quite expensive, francophone countries could network within themselves to translate English documents into French for their use and for the use of others. The English speaking countries should do likewise. These documents will include the evils of the IFIs and the WTO*
- *Existing websites should be linked and lists serve on essential services set-up to facilitate communication among members.*

### **Sourcing Funding**

- Encourage local groups to do fundraising within their own communities.
- Organise dances, concerts, film festivals, popular theatres etc to raise funds from the general public
- Write funding proposals for the consideration of supportive donors and foundations.

To facilitate the above, an interim contact group was set-up to act as Focal persons. The following persons were nominated as volunteer representatives:

	NAME	COUNTRY
1.	HAMEDA DEEDAT	SOUTH AFRICA
2.	ELIZABETH EILOR	UGANDA
3.	BERNARD MAVOUNGOU	CONGO BRAZZAVILLE
4.	ADJARATOU NDIAYE	SENEGAL
5.	MOSES KAMBOU	Burkina Faso
6.	Rudolf Amenga-Etego	GHANA

## **POLITICAL STRATEGY**

- *National political institutions like Parliament, political parties, local authorities etc could all be engaged through dialogue, participatory endeavours or otherwise by local focal point animators.*
- *At the sub-regional levels, ECOWAS, SADC etc should be engaged through whatever means possible. Likewise the AU and NEPAD structures keeping in mind the limitations of those engagements.*
- *International institutions and events like the G-8 summit, annual IMF/WB meetings, WTO meetings, upcoming church meetings in Germany; the Cancun (Mexico) summit, commonwealth meetings etc could also be engaged through letters, signature campaigns, lobbying etc*
- *There should also be a strategy to engage the governments, utility companies, the community media networks etc.*
- *There should be a special effort to draw the labour movement into the struggle.*

## **INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

International solidarity among the civil forces fighting for social, economic and environmental justice as well for peace and fair trade among peoples is crucial for the success our struggle in Africa. A special effort should therefore be made to engage and be part of the global movement.

### **Conclusion: dream conference ends**

In the words of Rudolf Amenga-Etego, the conference, that the organisers had dreamt about and planned for almost a year had now finally come off successfully. He encouraged conference participants to remember the discussions and keep to the resolutions outlined above as committed activists. He hoped that, as a measure of the success of proceedings, every participant, once home, would have an interesting story to tell!