

Earth Negotiations Bulletin (5:27), 3 March 1995
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
1995

Keywords: Earth Negotiations Bulletins, mountain development, sustainable development.

"SWEDEN noted: (1) the need to focus on water, and cultural and social patterns of mountain regions; (2) the difficulty of developing a global mountain charter due to these differences, and that regional action programmes may provide the best approach; and (3) the issue of tourism in such fragile areas needs to be addressed.

" PERU "differed with Sweden on the need for a global mountain charter, which he views as necessary for proper management, hence the need for a world conference to address this matter."

"GERMANY stated that the expert meetings mentioned in the Secretary-General's report demonstrated the complexity of addressing sustainable mountain development as a global phenomenon. He noted that while mountain areas are faced with high risks that require prompt action, the need for a world conference on sustainable mountain development is questionable. Based on their experience in the alpine region, national, sub-regional and regional schemes including all stakeholders, rather than global initiatives, are more practical."

SWITZERLAND said "diversity between and within mountains makes it important to plan mountain development at the national level."

"According to JAPAN, mountain development must be tackled in an integrated manner to address living conditions and better utilization of mountain resources."

AUSTRIA said that "there is need for integrated approaches to problem-solving that are innovative, dynamic and flexible. A global conference may not be the best approach to address the issue."

"The FAO clarified that the proposal for a "world conference" does not connote the specific meaning given to it in the UN. Rather, it suggests inter-regional approaches and emphasizes regional, national and sub-regional level meetings, such as the Alpine Convention."

Tage Michaelson (FAO) also said that the main conclusion in the report E/CN.17/1995/5 was that "there is agreement that awareness needs to be generated at the governmental level on the specificity of mountain issues. Sustainable mountain development must start with a change of attitude towards and treatment of indigenous people and mountain women, including recognition of the right to land, living conditions, protection from exploitation by drug dealers and tourist operations. The problems of mountain communities do not only stem from the lack of assistance, but also from lack of empowerment. The report recommends...formulating and negotiating regional or sub-regional conventions and possibly developing a global mountain charter."

Notes to readers

For more information go to:

<http://www.mbnet.mb.ca/linkages/vol05/0527003e.html>