

Please note that in November 2003,
Environics International became GlobeScan Incorporated.
For more information on this press release please see our contact information at: www.GlobeScan.com



GLOBAL
2020
STAKEHOLDERS
PANEL

EMBARGOED MEDIA RELEASE:
Sunday 26 January 2003
10:00 AM Porto Alegre, Brazil
2:00 PM Davos, Switzerland

Davos Press Briefing
Rinerhorn Room
Middle Level,
Davos Conference Centre

What Global Stakeholders Think and Want for the Year 2020

An ambitious attempt to develop a broadly supported global action agenda on critical challenges was launched today by major philanthropies on both sides of the Atlantic. They also released the findings from their first global survey of stakeholders.

The 2020 Fund at the King Baudouin Foundation United States, and its supporting organizations (see below), is enlisting a Global Stakeholder Panel of leaders from non-governmental organizations, governments and businesses around the world to respond to a series of surveys to help develop an action agenda for achieving the world people want by the year 2020. Research is being conducted on a non-profit basis by Environics International of Toronto, Canada.

In simultaneous press conferences today at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre Brazil and the World Economic Forum in Davos Switzerland, 2020 Fund organizers focused mainly on inviting many more organizations, networks and leaders worldwide to join in this multi-stakeholder initiative by visiting their web site www.2020Fund.org or contacting organizers by fax or mail (see below coordinates).

Organizers also released the report of findings from their first global survey of stakeholders' views. Entitled, "Towards the Future We Want for Our Children," the report provides fascinating insights into the views and aspirations of engaged leaders across the world.

The first 2020 Global Stakeholder Panel survey was conducted in five languages between August and October 2002, and received 300 responses from a total of 63 countries. Highlights include:

- Three in four of the mainly NGO stakeholders surveyed agree that increasing globalization is inevitable. Over four in ten view the trade of goods and services between countries as making a positive contribution towards the world they want for the year 2020, while three in ten see international trade as negative.



THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION



THE MILLS FAMILY FUND OF
THE VANGUARD FOUNDATION



CHARLES STEWART
MOTT FOUNDATION

- Fully nine in ten stakeholders surveyed agree that when it comes to globalization, there is too much focus on increasing trade and investment, and not enough on protecting things like human rights and the environment. Seven in ten disagree that developing countries benefit as much as rich countries from free trade.
- Three of every four stakeholders surveyed rate increasing the effectiveness and capacity of government institutions as a priority for action to get to the world they want by 2020. Two in three stakeholders believe that, currently, national governments are becoming less and less relevant in the world.
- Almost six in ten of the mainly NGO stakeholders surveyed favor reform of existing multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), while one in three favors disbanding these agencies and replacing them with new structures. Only one in ten favors the disbanding of the United Nations and its specialized organizations like UNEP, UNDP and the ILO.
- Respondents named sustainable development (SD) and the new economic models needed to achieve it as the single greatest challenges for getting to the future they want by the year 2020, a significant result given the wide range of perspectives represented. They also identified the Rio Earth Summit's Agenda 21 as the global agenda for action most worthy of broad support.
- Although members of the global stakeholder community hold similar opinions and have common concerns, they have yet to adopt either a common framework of goals or an international "agenda for action" for getting to the future they want by the year 2020. While Agenda 21 is closest to a widely-supported action framework (chosen by three in ten), as many stakeholders say "none" of the existing frameworks are worthy of broad support.
- When asked what would most build the capacity of their organizations, NGO stakeholders rated increased networking and help in building effective strategic alliances highest, ahead of greater financial support and fundraising capacity.

The 2020 Fund's Global Stakeholder Panel (GSP) initiative is being undertaken by the following donors: The Mills Family at the Vanguard Foundation (US), the King Baudouin Foundation (Belgium), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (Canada), Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (US), The Rockefeller Foundation (US), and Dow Canada.

The initiative operates under the guidance and oversight of a Project Advisory Group, coordinated by the 2020 Fund, and comprised of representatives of the funding organizations together with senior advisors from the following respected organizations: Ashoka, Civicus, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). These organizations are also encouraging their networks to participate in the surveys.

2020 Fund organizers also list the following Participating Networks and Associations that are encouraging their networks to participate in the research:

21st Century Trust
Conference of NGOs at the UN (CONGO)
Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) India and Africa
Earth Action Network
Global Action Network
Global Leaders for Tomorrow—World Economic Forum
Human Rights Information Network (HURINET)
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
International Union of Local Authorities (IULA)
Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD)
Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)
World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)
World Social Forum organizing committee

While releasing these results on globalization, governance, sustainable development, and capacity building, 2020 Fund organizers mainly focused on inviting an ever-growing number of organizations, networks and leaders to join the “2020 Global Stakeholder Panel” and participate in future surveys to ensure that their perspective is reflected in the resulting action plan, which organizers will widely communicate in order to contribute to the evolving international discourse on these topics.

Interested stakeholders are invited to register as members of the Global Stakeholder Panel by contacting:

On-line: www.2020Fund.org
e-mail: participate@2020Fund.org
fax: +1-416-920-3510
mail: Environics International
33 Bloor Street East, Suite 900
Toronto, Canada
M4W 3H1

For more information on this release:

In Porto Alegre: Mr. Rob Kerr
c/o Master Palace Hotel until January 28, 2003
phone/fax: +55-51-3211-5711

In Davos: Mr. Doug Miller
c/o Bahnhof - Terminus Hotel until January 28, 2003
Talstrasse 31 - 7270 Davos Platz
Tel: 41 81 414 9797
Fax: 41 81 414 97 98