



Action Committee for the Three Global Conventions of the United Nations (CA3C)

A P P E A L

In February 2010, therefore at nearly the end of two decades since the Rio de Janeiro Summit of 1992, CA3C (the Three UN Conventions on Environment Supporting Committee, 3CSC) held an assembly to debate on “*Environment, present world situation and possible prospects*”.

All interventions focused on our serious preoccupation over present conditions of environmental degradation, especially on the speed at which natural equilibriums are changing in every sector. This preoccupation is even greater when considering:

- The obvious insufficiency of measures taken so far.
- Disagreements over these measures.
- The still poor people perception of the situation gravity.
- The inconsistency of positive results reached over two decades.

It is now clear that, today, the 1992 objectives are not even near but much further away than at that date. Climate change is on its way while soils deterioration, water stress, and desertification threaten our food security and the quality of life of future generations. Degradation processes accelerate as they feed each other by mutual side effects. Delays in decision and action make restoration processes all the more difficult and questionable.

There is therefore a vital need for a radical change and for a significant improvement in the type and extension of actions to be undertaken if we wish (but also because we must) renew hope and make credible chances for a sustainable environmental equilibrium in a reasonable time.

With this aim in mind, CA3C would urge deciders to give a new push for a change process. The Secretariats of the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification United Nations Conventions are among the few institutions which could act on environment referring to an internationally approved legal basis. Would they be ready to act together and not separately as for now, they would appear as a major player in environmental matters.

The three Secretariats are therefore invited to promote an exceptional initiative for demonstrating to the world people that they are aware of the deep interactions of their respective fields of action and of the need for a joint strategy. A major message would

underline the interdependency of the three Conventions as well as the need for a more valid operative system. Such a statement would challenge Governments and international organizations and press them to collaborate in a positive and appropriate way for safeguarding the natural equilibriums.

To this end, the three Secretariats are invited to jointly set up a “panel”, including scientists and NGOs, to produce and spread a white book which would report on current and prospective situation and outline major measures and initiatives needed to reverse present regressive trends in climate, soils and water degradation, biodiversity losses.

As a contribution, CA3C attaches to this appeal a “project idea brief” which would illustrate the collaborative spirit needed to promote greater efficiency in the fundamental preservation of nature upon which our very existence depends. People of the world, undoubtedly, would expect this spirit to be shared by United Nations Organizations and Agencies, the Three Global Environmental Conventions Secretariats, Governments, institutions and public and private bodies.

We are aware that this initiative is promoted within an international context of environmental concern. It is mainly intended to bring an added value, taking advantage of the unique three UN Conventions legal capability. It would have an effect if, in a way or another, it helps reinforcing governments’ determination to implement strong environmental policies, such as, in particular, those discussed but left undecided at the Copenhagen Conference. Experience teaches us that, in environmental matters, public opinion is a last resort when governments cannot decide. UN environmental conventions might play a decisive role provided they are understood and fully appropriated by people. This is why a new initiative is needed.

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