

## **Final NGO Statement – CSD 15**

Climate change and energy security are the dominant issues of today. Here at CSD-15, the word “sustainable” seems to have been taken out of the “Commission on *Sustainable Development*”. Although we mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Common Future, commitments to increase fossil fuel and nuclear use, rather than their phasing out, are being shamelessly promoted.

Even though the CSD is not legally binding, delegates still seek out the weakest language instead of taking bold steps and inspiring us toward a long-term, sustainable future. As we face a climate crisis, the attempt to send a signal to Bali has failed, perhaps a lack of fresh air and connection from the basement of the UN. The CSD-15 was a lost opportunity – making it two years of wasted hot air, carbon emissions and use of energy.

As we move toward the round on agriculture, we’d like to plant a seed of hope...millions of people around the world are committed to mitigating climate change. We call on governments to catch up and take leadership on the road to Bali. We can’t afford to wait.

### **We need a New Kind of CSD**

At the end of the second CSD 2-year cycle, the flaws of the current model becomes very clear. The CSD cannot agree to meaningful actions for sustainable energy, it cannot even agree to call for sustainable use of energy, and at the end of negotiations nuclear issues are suddenly brought up, taking the process backwards to before The Johannesburg Summit. Then the process starts to lose its meaning.

All the problems of CSD are results of decisions by countries; but we have to ask ourselves if it is not time to rethink the process? We spent a whole review year with a half-hearted review, mainly listening to each other’s speeches. We could have started processes to develop new international initiatives addressing urgent issues, but it did not happen. Now the CSD negotiators just skip most of the good ideas because of lack of time for the countries to consider them in detail. We need to change this. 20 years after the Brundtland report, we cannot continue to lose the opportunity of CSD to start global cooperation on urgent issues. The structure of CSD has to change. Every new cycle must start from day one to work on results on issues that urgently need new or better international cooperation. We need a new start.

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