

**FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009*

**Agenda item 10. Cross-cutting issues, interlinkages and implementation of CSD-17 decisions**

Intervention by the Northern Alliance for Sustainability<sup>1</sup>

In the morning sessions there was a kind of consensus of the urgent need for reducing in absolute amounts the use of resources, especially in the North. Any economic activity uses natural resources, even a decoupled one. So, if we are serious in our main goal of reduction, we cannot talk of "sustainable growth", because growth implies more use of natural resources, which we agreed on that this is not sustainable and fair for global justice. Thus: "sustainable growth" is a contradiction in terminus.

We cannot deny the urgent need for reduction, also for social and environmental justice reasons, and preach at the same time economic growth.

On the point of participation of major groups: We fully recognize the importance of the participation of major groups. And for that we support the input of USA on this. But at the same time we feel that governments and other donors don't want to finance this kind of process work of NGOs. It is easy to get money for building schools or hospitals in Africa, but follow up work on UN and other official institutions is not often financially supported by donors. So I want to make a demand to all governments here present to consider this point and reserve some space on their budgets for process work of civil society organizations.

Leida Rijnhout  
Acting Secretary General  
Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED)

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<sup>1</sup> The text is presented as received from the author.