

1 **EFGP 3rd Congress, Berlin - Draft Resolution**
2 **on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)**
3 **in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August – 4 September 2002**
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6 Ten years after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro 1992 governments and world leaders are
7 gathering to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South
8 Africa, 26 August – 4 September 2002.

9 In a world where carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere still exceed all sustainable limits,
10 where half of the world's population lives on less than \$2 per day, and where the richest 25 % of
11 the world's population is using 80 % of the world's resources, the European Green parties,
12 gathered in their Third Congress in Berlin, 17 – 19 May 2002, urge the governments preparing for
13 the Johannesburg Summit to have stronger political commitments in global equality and in
14 protection of natural resources.

15 The European Green parties are deeply worried that the level of global governmental ambition in
16 the preparations for Johannesburg has been very low. It risks being a UN Summit that is only
17 readopting previous agreements, or even watering them down.

18 Ten years ago in Rio the birth of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was one of
19 the celebrated outcomes of the Earth Summit. It has taken ten years to put it into practice through
20 the very modest Kyoto Protocol. The European Greens reject the attitude of the United States, the
21 biggest contributor to the greenhouse gas emissions in the world, against ratification of the Kyoto
22 Protocol.

23 The European Green parties support the following important steps to be taken at the Johannesburg
24 Summit:

25 1. Global environmental governance

26 a. During last ten years trade interests, represented by the World Trade Organisation (WTO),
27 have overruled environmental issues. It is high time to increase the firepower of
28 environmental interests in the global context. United Nations Environment Programme
29 UNEP, now financed only by voluntary contributions by a group of governments, should be
30 upgraded to a UN World Environment Organisation (WEO), with a negotiating mandate on
31 environment and trade issues, and the capacity to enforce its decisions.

32 b. UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should have a new function as a global
33 forum on sustainable development, dealing also with the social and economic dimensions
34 of development.

35 2. Code of Conduct for private sector

36 During the 90s we have seen much increased private investments into the developing
37 countries. Many investments are made by multinationals, which have the whole globe as
38 their market place. There has to be an ethical, social and environmental code of conduct for
39 these investments which guarantees that investors follow at least minimum standards. There

1 should also be universal implementation of International Labour Organization ILO core
2 labour standards.

3 3. Kyoto Protocol as a first step

4 We know that Kyoto Protocol is not enough, but it is the first step to combat climate
5 change. For the next commitment period we have to have clear reduction figures also for
6 the rapidly industrialized developing countries, like China and India. Johannesburg has to
7 celebrate the ratification of the Kyoto protocol – even if the US stays outside.

8 4. Debt relief for poorest developing countries

9 The debt burden of many developing countries is one of the main obstacles of development.
10 Helping the least developed countries (LDC's) to come out of the vicious debt cycle needs
11 to be addressed also in Johannesburg. A new initiative for the poorest countries, HIPC-2, is
12 needed.

13 5. More emphasis on water, desertification and land degradation

14 Some of the most fatal environmental risks for the people in developing countries have not
15 yet been addressed properly. These are issues of access to water resources and sanitation,
16 desertification and land degradation. These are also the environmental risks that are faced
17 on a daily basis by women in the rural areas. Johannesburg can raise the profile of these
18 “forgotten environmental problems”. Environmental programmes important for developing
19 countries should be financed through GEF (Global Environment Facility) and other
20 effective funding mechanisms.

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22 6. ODA up, specific funding for sustainable development

23 We have seen a decline in ODA funds during the 90s. Industrialized countries have to
24 commit themselves to increase ODA to the UN target level of 0,7 % GDP by a fixed date
25 of 2010. Sustainable development needs also more earmarked funding for technology
26 transfer, environmental investments and support to sustainable livelihoods. Promises made
27 in the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002
28 were a step in the right direction, but not satisfactory.

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30 7. New perspective for Africa

31 Finally, Johannesburg is an African conference. There is a need for a new perspective for
32 Africa, the continent that is suffering from poverty, debt and serious diseases like
33 AIDS/HIV. The greens are supporting regional initiatives like the New Partnership for
34 Africa's Development (NEPAD) if good governance, sustainable development and
35 environment protection are built in as preconditions to the development programme. The
36 meeting in Johannesburg has to give a sustainable role to the regions, where the majority of
37 the world's population lives.