

**Presentation of Roland Wiederkehr, Speaker, 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference,
Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations
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The Legacy-Program of Green Cross:

Part I:

Environment, War, and Conflict: Green Cross helps to disarm and remediate.

Part II:

Green Cross tries to prevent new wars and conflicts which could result from resource scarcity, e.g. water and energy.

Green Cross is an international environmental NGO pursuing a cooperative, non-confrontational program of mediation, facilitation, and environmental advocacy. We have just recently celebrated our tenth anniversary this spring in Geneva and Zurich, Switzerland. An organization entitled "World Green Cross" was founded in December 1992 on the initiative of Roland Wiederkehr (MP Swiss National Council) and was merged six months later with an initiative from the Rio Summit in April 1993 to create "Green Cross International." Under its founding president Mikhail Gorbachev Green Cross is now represented in 26 countries on five continents. (Due to copyright restrictions, the US affiliate is called "Global Green USA.")

Part I:

Since 1994, Green Cross has managed an international program dealing with the environmental and social consequences of war and conflicts. The Program promotes

- full implementation of arms control and disarmament agreements;
- safe and environmentally sound destruction of weapons arsenals;
- the conversion and clean-up of military facilities and lands;
- reduced environmental impact of military practices;
- improvements in the areas of public health, education, and social infrastructure in regions affected by military legacies;
- public awareness, knowledge transfer, capacity-building, and self-responsibility on military-environmental issues; and
- the building of a civil society.

In our efforts to address the above issues, while acting as a neutral, third-party facilitator, we promote the involvement of all stakeholder groups in the decision-making process from the very beginning of a project and support the development of practical solutions precluding harmful impacts from military legacies to public health and the environment.

The Program is implemented in the frame of two operative units. The **Legacy of the Cold War Program (Legacy Program)** addresses technical, scientific, and political aspects, while the **Socmed (Social, Medical, Educational) Program** focuses on social, medical and educational questions. To date, the Program runs projects in Belarus, Russia, the Ukraine, the U.S., and Vietnam. Program expenditures in 2000 were \$2.25 million and in 2001 \$2.65 million. All books of partner organizations are audited according to national legislation. Five Green Cross affiliates participate in the Legacy and Socmed Programs -- Global Green USA, Green Cross Switzerland, Green Cross Russia, Green Cross Belarus, and Green Cross Ukraine.

The Program's experience has shown that there are several key issues often neglected in disarmament projects:

- *Local Community Involvement:* Absolutely key is to involve local communities from the very beginning of a process. All of the American, Russian, and South Korean chemical weapons destruction programs provide ample evidence of the obstacles arising through poor communication and by involving communities only at the eleventh hour. The local population's main concerns are the negative impacts of disarmament activities on public health and the environment, a lack of emergency preparedness and emergency management capacities, and the need for improvement in basic social infrastructure.
- *Full Stakeholder Involvement:* Experience has also shown that in most disarmament activities there are four discrete levels of stakeholders: local communities, state offices, national authorities, and the international community providing assistance. The agendas and perspectives of all four levels are very diverse and unless there is understanding and commitment by all four levels, disarmament projects easily become subject to partisan interests. Hence arises a need for a platform that brings together stakeholder groups to receive up-to-date information, exchange views, discuss current and future challenges, request input, and work out joint solutions.
- *Local-National Relations:* The third issue concerns the relationship between local communities and the national-government. Authorities often forget or are unwilling to inform communities about weapons destruction plans or use a DAD (decide-announce-defend) approach; and local communities often regard official statements with deep mistrust. A bridge between these stakeholders can only be built by a third party which is obviously not part of the government or local community and which enjoys the respect of the citizens. Respect however cannot be built just on words but relies on tangible actions in favor of local communities and constructive assistance to the authorities.

Helping the Global Partnership Initiative of the G8 to have success

In Kananaskis the G8 countries have decided to help Russia in its disarmament efforts and to clean up the thousands of threats left over from the cold war.

In order to facilitate a smooth (and thereby also time- and cost-saving) implementation of the Global Partnership we believe that the activities outlined in the following could prove helpful.

The projects focus on areas proposed by Russia in late January 2003 during the Paris G8-meeting (i.e. chemical weapons destruction, submarine decommissioning in NW-Russia), however, Green Cross is also active in other weapons areas.

Chemical Weapons

In 1995, Green Cross began public outreach and public involvement activities surrounding chemical weapons disarmament in both Russia and the U.S. To date, we operate ten local and regional public outreach offices in Russia, have held five large public hearings, instituted a Russian National Dialogue on chemical weapons disarmament, facilitated training seminars for medical and emergency response personnel, provided media representatives with education on chemical weapons and their destruction, and published a series of popular brochures and fact sheets. In recognition of the important role Green Cross plays in public outreach, the president of Green Cross Russia has been appointed a member of the Russian Presidential Committee on Chemical Disarmament. In the U.S., Global Green USA has been involved in the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) program, which was key in building consensus around technical criteria on issues such as public health, public and worker safety, and technology efficacy and has also introduced the concept of "public acceptability" into the U.S. procurement process. The ACWA process has also helped to network all chemical weapons sites nationally in the United States through a national "ACWA Dialogue" to provide a greater sense of mutual purpose and to share mutual concerns and ideas. Global Green USA was also instrumental in establishing a federal non-incineration research and demonstration program which has now produced four teams of technologies for safe chemical weapons demilitarization.

The efforts of the Legacy Program have therefore been instrumental in promoting safe and environmentally sound chemical weapons demilitarization in both the U.S. and Russia. Today, the Green Cross activities in the chemical field are supported by the governments of Denmark, Switzerland, the U.K., and the U.S. as well as by several U.S. and European foundations.

Green Cross could provide support to the Global Partnership in the following areas:

1. Raise awareness and understanding in local Russian communities on disarmament activities:
 - **Operate local and regional public outreach offices:** The offices educate citizens on issues linked to CWD (technical, environmental, political, medical and other related questions); keep the local population and administration informed on the progress of the Russian Federal CWD Program; identify public perceptions, concerns and attitudes as well as potential controversial policies and issues; and facilitate a direct communication between Russian Federal officials, State officials, experts and citizens. Annual operation costs vary widely, depending on whether only barebones office operations are covered (\$40,000/yr) or whether additional equipment, information materials, and outreach activities are sponsored (up to \$100,000/yr). At the moment at least one office is still needed to complete the network in the seven chemical stockpile areas

Training seminars for Russian journalists, schoolteachers, local and regional decision-makers: In Russia, access to up-to-date and accurate information is very difficult for local and regional decision-makers as well as for key persons in the communities. There is a lack of telephones, fax, and internet access as well as possibilities to travel to Moscow or abroad. In addition, access even to non-classified information in Russia remains very difficult. A series of local and regional seminars (\$6-8,000 each) would increase awareness with key stakeholders on issues and the status of the government efforts to destroy chemical weapons. To date, such seminars are held only in the Shchuch'ye region.

2. Facilitate stakeholder involvement processes:

- **Support a Russian National Dialogue on Chemical Weapons Destruction:** This two-day meeting is an all-inclusive meeting platform for stakeholders. It provides updated information to the public on the status of national chemical weapons destruction; an open forum to discuss current challenges; asks local, regional, national, and international stakeholders for input; facilitates a joint understanding between stakeholders; and determines next steps for safe and environmentally sound demilitarization of Russian chemical weapons stockpiles. Costs for a two-day Dialogue Meeting with approximately 100 participants, including simultaneous translation, printing of proceedings, travel and boarding of regional and local representatives (partially covered): \$ 30-35,000. It would be helpful to have at least 1-2 Dialogue meetings annually.
- **Assist the creation of local Citizens' Advisory Committees:** Citizens' Advisory Committees (CAC) have a similar function as a National Dialogue, but on the local level. They help communities, which also have very diverse views amongst their thousands of inhabitants, to formulate a joint position and to provide the army with one major contact on the local level. CACs have proven very useful in the U.S. process and their creation should be encouraged in Russian stockpile communities. Besides an initial investment in basic office equipment (\$3,000) a CAC secretary should be paid (\$5,000/yr) in order to ensure continuity of the process and communication between all CAC members and other interested parties. An initial workshop in Moscow including U.S. CAC members would be helpful for seeding the initiative (\$20-35,000). It would be useful to initiate CACs in five Russian stockpile communities.

3. Address concerns of local communities:

- **Renew the training of medical staff of regional central hospitals on the treatment of CW inflicted injuries:** In 1997, a Swiss government grant allowed to provide a 10-day training seminar to local medical staff and representatives of emergency response services in five out of seven Russian stockpile areas. The course addressed the lack of professional education for hospital personnel, thus contributing to increased trust in the community about emergency response capabilities. Response from the course has been very enthusiastic and training materials and brochures have been enthusiastically requested by various area hospitals. The training needs renewal (approx. \$120,000 for all seven regions).
- **Conduct public health monitoring surrounding chemical weapons destruction facilities:** It is important to establish, as early as possible before the chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF) starts, a baseline of the state of public health. Unfortunately, no activities are visible in Russia with the exception of Gorny and some early beginnings in Shchuch'ye. Obstacles to epidemiological investigations and public health monitoring are a lack of medical staff trained on how to perform valid epidemiological investigations, a lack of certain groups of specialists in the generally understaffed regional central hospitals, and a lack of even basic equipment. A need for an independent health survey also arises from the fact that official data are generally met with mistrust in the population and that authorities might classify them at their discretion. Promoting alliances with Western health associations could considerably strengthen local public health efforts; Green Cross has already partnered with the American Public Health Association.

- **Strengthen local emergency response capabilities:** In all Russian stockpile communities, basic emergency response capabilities are missing. Emercom staff have an insufficient understanding of the challenges created by an accident at a CW stockpile or destruction facility. The population is untrained in the use of respirators, which are stored far away from where they are needed. Basic infrastructure such as paved evacuation roads, means of alarm and communications, or transport capacities are missing. In the last two years, Green Cross has been assisting in the training of the Emercom in the Shchuch'ye region. Drawing from this experience, Emercom staff should have the opportunity to visit their counterparts in the U.S. and profit from their experience (costs between \$100-500,000, depending on amount of participants and exact itinerary and program), and basic emergency management infrastructure needs to be provided (costs ranging from hundreds of thousands to a few millions of USD depending on number of sites and type of infrastructure provided).
- **Independent risk assessments of CW stockpiles, CWDFs and transportation:** Risk assessments are a key tool not only for improving safety at CW installations, but also provide emergency response services with an important planning tool. However, there are no independent risk assessments in the public domain with the exception of work done by Green Cross. In addition, the risk of ammunition transportation from Kizner to Shchuch'ye has not been assessed. Based on previous risk assessments which passed Western peer review, Green Cross can provide independent risk assessment (costs \$70-100,000 per object depending on statement of work) and would like to strengthen partnering with Western academic institutions in order to exchange experience between Western and Russian schools of risk assessment and provide peer review.

4. Address wider issues:

- **Establish an inventory of former sites of CW destruction and burial and clean up of dangerous sites:** A 1993 U.S. Army report lists 215 suspected burial sites of chemical weapons in the U.S., most of them needing closer investigation and remediation. In Russia, nothing specific is currently known with the exception of one open-pit burning site investigated by Green Cross near the Leonidovka CW stockpile (Penza region). Preliminary results indicate that the destruction caused major environmental impact and potentially endangers the drinking water resources of hundred of thousands of people. Besides a need for a clean up project at the Leonidovka open-pit burning site, it indicates also a need for a establishing a systematic inventory of former sites of CW destruction and burial, assess their environmental impact and define priority objects for clean up.
- **Strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises:** Disarmament projects always carry the risk to set off a boom-and-bust cycle in local communities. In order to provide areas with a more sustainable future, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises needs to be supported. This also contributes to longer-term social stability and lowers the emigration from desolate areas to rich Western countries.

Nuclear field

From 1994-1999, Green Cross created an inventory of Cold War nuclear legacies in NW-Russia, Moscow, Krasnoyarsk, Tomsk, Chelyabinsk, Vladivostok, Altai and Novaya Zemlya. The results were published in a series of scientific reports, a summary report for decision-makers and a GIS-system. Since 1999, Green Cross operations were then exclusively focused on chemical weapons project as those projects came into an increasingly difficult political environment. In 2001, nuclear activities in the field of raising public information were restarted.

Also after the end of the Soviet Union, there is hardly any discussion within society on the future of the atom, be it for civil or military purposes. While the Ministry of Atomic Energy moves forward with massive plans for expanding nuclear operations, all while claiming a high level of safety, grassroots organizations are pronouncing quite opposite views disseminating alarmist information. In 2001, several discussions took place between the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy (Minatom) and Green Cross Russia to explore an involvement of Green Cross in building a long-term, public consensus-building process in the nuclear field, similar to the Green Cross model in the chemical weapons field.

1. Raise awareness and understanding in the population on nuclear questions:

- **Provide countrywide and international information dissemination through expanding a nuclear website:** A major roadblock preventing a constructive and fact-based discussion and a consensus-building process within Russian society is the virtual absence of comprehensive, objective, and trustworthy information on nuclear topics. Green Cross is presently finalising a nuclear website providing countrywide access to objective and non-partisan information with the aim to provide education to interested institutions and individuals and to initiate and facilitate a constructive discussion process on the future of the atom in Russia. The first stage of the Russian-language website is scheduled to go online in 2003. Support is needed to expand information presented on the website and to add a Russian-English translation of the site.
- **Operate local and regional public outreach offices:** Minatom has started recently some public outreach activities. However, besides that their information activities will always be perceived as biased, there are questions whether these activities show a fundamental change of policy or just pure cosmetical changes. Green Cross intends to open a series of public information offices in Northwest Russia, preliminary discussions took place e.g. in Severodvinsk, Arkhangelsk, and other places. The office operation would profit from Green Cross longstanding experience in public outreach in the chemical field. The offices should also provide support to G8-members in communicating their assistance programs and progress made. Annual operation costs vary widely, depending on whether only barebones office operations are covered or whether additional equipment, information materials, and outreach activities are sponsored. Also an initial investment is needed for the purchase of office equipment and establishing of telephone lines etc.
- **One-day background briefs for media representatives and foreign embassy officials:** Nuclear issues in Russia are an important topic for Russian journalism. Also, newspaper articles are a major source of education for the population at large. Unfortunately, due to the complexity of nuclear issues, the deterioration of journalism over the last ten years, and the lack of even basic tools (telephone, fax, Internet) for Russian journalists to access information, solid and actual background articles are rare. One-day background briefs for media representatives and foreign embassy officials shall provide media representatives with the necessary technical, legislative and political background in order to research and write pertinent articles on nuclear issues in Russia and give journalists and embassy officials information on international treaties and assistance programs; their aims, requirements and deadlines; and the status of their implementation in Russia.

2. Empower civilian stakeholders and increase transparency and safety:

- **Seminars for basic training of future radiation monitoring experts:** Military nuclear activities are secret and no information on events impacting the health and well-being of citizens is available to communities potentially affected. Civil nuclear activities are in theory under the control of GAN, but this agency has been widely disempowered after 1995 by Minatom. At the same time, activities at nuclear decommissioning sites and the volume of nuclear materials transported will increase in parallel with the increasing amount of international assistance over the next years. Therefore, many regional and local administrations presently want to reinstate radiation-monitoring capacities. Green Cross has planned for three training seminars with a total of 60 participants on radiation monitoring. The seminars shall be held together with former and current experts and inspectors of GAN and attached institutions with longstanding *practical* experience in radiation monitoring and selected Western experts. These seminars should seed the reinstallation of civil monitoring services in NW-Russia, Siberia, and Kazakhstan.
- **Seeding of an independent, public radiation monitoring service in the Tomsk area:** Tomsk-7 is the site of one of Russia's three enrichment facilities. While Chelyabinsk and Krasnoyarsk are in the political spotlight, the Tomsk area has been little affected by political disputes between Minatom and its grassroots opponents. For this very reason, the Tomsk area shall be used as a pilot area for setting up an independent public radiation monitoring service surveying the impact of nuclear activities on the environment. The addition of an exchange with Western experts would be useful.
- **Risk assessment of transportation of nuclear materials:** Both the assistance by the Global Partnership as well as Russia's plans to import nuclear fuel will lead to massive amounts of nuclear materials being transported across the country. However, transportation will take place on an antiquated railway system increasingly plagued by accidents and the experience of the last year's shows that many transports are done without appropriate security and safety measures and partially in violation of existing legislation. A risk assessment shall help to determine safety issues and develop recommendations with respect to the transport of spent nuclear fuel from decommissioned nuclear submarines and nuclear icebreakers along the main transport routes Severodvinsk – Murmansk – Arkhangelsk – Chelyabinsk-65; Pacific Fleet bases – Komsomolsk na Amur – Chelyabinsk-65; polar water route – Dudinka – Yenissei River – Krasnoyarsk-26. The risk assessment will be performed with the support of past and current experts of GAN, the Ministry of Fuel Energy, and central and regional scientific institutes. The addition of an exchange with Western experts would be useful.

Social-medical field

Since 1994, Green Cross has organized social-medical-educational projects for children and their families living around chemical and nuclear weapons stockpiles in Russia. In 2002, more than 4,000 parents and their children took part in the Green Cross Social Care, Medical Care, and Education (Socmed) Program. The families who participate live near weapons stockpiles in Russia or the evacuated zone of Chernobyl in Belarus and the Ukraine. The Socmed has been a vital part of the general Legacy Program because of the concern over public health expressed by citizens in the communities where we work.

Socmed is composed of six projects that together empower communities and improve the health, education and environmental awareness in the targeted region. The efforts of the Socmed Program have been instrumental in providing local citizens the means to address their concerns about public health and general apathy that has taken hold of these communities. The Swiss and U.S. governments, thousands of private citizens, and numerous European and U.S. foundations, support these activities. Green Cross could provide support to the Global Partnership by expanding the already present Socmed Program to each of the stockpile regions in Russia:

- **Camps** for teenagers and children provide the time and space for health assessments, cultural education, civil society lessons and environmental education for youth and young adults. After the camps, the participants can either receive further medical treatment at their places of residence or be prepared for other tasks and activities (i.e. counselors for future camps). In 2001, thirteen 24-day camps hosted a total of 2,185 children and teenagers. The price of the camps varies from region to region, but in general the expense is \$500 per child.
- The **Health Monitoring Pilot Project**, located in selected areas of Russia, assists local authorities with health issues and medical surveys. The project focuses on health monitoring in Penza, Russia (a chemical weapon stockpile site). Green Cross would like to expand this project to each of the stockpiles and the transportation route (for nerve agent that will be transported to Shchuch'ye for disposal), each region costs around \$25,000 (for monitoring equipment and training of epidemiologists) to begin and then an additional \$50,000 per year to conduct the survey.
- The **Mother, Father and Child** program provides training for parents on a variety of topics - from dealing with contaminated food to issues of child rearing and education. It also provides, when necessary, medical treatment in specialized sanatoriums. The parents go on to build local networks and consulting offices, including mobile groups that will educate more mothers and fathers in their homes. The start-up costs for this project is about \$5,000 a year, eventually the community will support the cost themselves.
- **Family Centers** are located throughout Ukraine and Belarus (Russia has Outreach Offices that provide information on the weapon stockpiles and act as Family Centers) and provide a central location for families to meet each other, to discuss issues that affect them, and to obtain medical care and health consultations. The start-up costs for this project is also around \$5,000 a year, eventually the community will support the cost themselves.
- Young people and adults receive **Training to be Counselors**. This project creates a self-sustaining health program in the region, and motivates young people by providing adult responsibilities. The project costs between \$200-300 per person.
- **Information and Publication** of materials on health care, nutrition and ecology are made available to targeted populations. For the general populace, researching and obtaining reliable and useful information on these topics is a difficult and time-consuming task in all the countries of the former Soviet Union. Green Cross plans to make information on health care, nutrition and environmental matters widely available to the public, including government institutions, health specialists, and non-profits. Ultimately a network will be established to facilitate this dissemination. The initial cost is between \$10,000-15,000, but once equipment is purchased the cost goes down to between \$5,000-7,000.

General field

Promote effective coordination of assistance programs: Drawing from experience of different foreign assistance programs in Russia over the last years and in view of the number of countries providing assistance, coordination will be an important issue for avoiding duplicating and triplicating efforts. Switzerland has relevant experience in coordinating multiparty efforts in the area of e.g. demining. Existing Swiss software could be easily adapted to provide efficient coordination of GP-projects. As a result of a Parliamentary motion initiated by MP Roland Wiederkehr, Switzerland has allocated \$12 million to the Chemical Weapons Destruction efforts of the G8 and has been acknowledged as a full partner. The contribution should be used according to Green Cross mainly in the field of “**soft tools.**”

Hard Tools and Soft Tools: The Role of Green Cross

All disarmament projects contain “hard tools” and “soft tools.” The hard tools are the destruction/dismantling/cleanup facilities/processes themselves as well as social and technical infrastructure needed for their operation. In order to generate a favorable environment for the construction and operation of such facilities, “soft tools” are needed. “Soft tools” are as key to the project as are “hard tools,” but they are much cheaper and of a longer term nature.

Practically all foreign investments are focused today on “hard tools.”

A key “soft tool” which is needed in the Russian processes is third-party independent facilitation of the Federal Programs. This includes information of the population and the promotion of public involvement and inclusion of all stakeholders as early as possible in the decision-making process. The Russian Federation government cannot facilitate that process itself as it has a stake in the Programs and cannot be its own mediator.

Green Cross outreach offices are experienced, well known, and managed by respected facilitators and mediators. Green Cross is offering its services to the international community, within the Global Partnership Initiative.

Why Soft Tools?

Military-environmental activities have often left affected areas underdeveloped or polluted and led to an atmosphere of mistrust between local stakeholder groups and authorities. These factors create an unfavourable environment for relevant projects (e.g. the construction of CWDFs (Chemical Weapons Destruction Facilities) or nuclear submarine dismantling).

The U.S. had to learn how important soft tools are: The U.S. has had at times very large opposition against its own incineration program to destroy chemical weapons. The use of soft tools over the last few years has allowed the U.S. Army to find satisfactory solutions for most of the stockpile sites in the U.S.

Opposition of communities does not arise because they are against disarmament. But they fear that destruction/dismantling activities of weapons of mass destruction – nuclear, chemical, and/or biological – may have serious impacts on the health of the people, may destroy their environment on which they are dependent, and that there are no effective emergency response services in the case of an accident.

Public outreach and public involvement are thus key elements for moving forward with disarmament and remediation processes and for minimising the dangers of political setbacks and of bad investments of billions of dollars.

There is a need for facilitating the involvement of all stakeholder groups (i.e. on the local, regional, national, and international level) in decision-making processes and in the search for joint, comprehensive solutions (consensus).

The issues are very complex and beyond purely technological questions. In general, challenges are the enormous costs of destruction/dismantling programs; the development of technologies which are not only safe but also acceptable to the local communities; mistrust in authorities; questions of environmental impact, public health and emergency management; and missing public outreach and public involvement in the decision-making process.

In Russia, additional issues are the transport of CWs and their reaction mass across the country to the future Shchuch'ye CWDF; the lack of timely and clear communication by the central authorities on plans and schedules; and disputes between the Federal and Oblast administrations on control over the programs.

Coordination between donor states is also a major issue. Though there has been increasing coordination and communication between donor states, more could be done. Lacking at the moment are regular coordination meetings at the level of the responsible implementers.

Conversion: Former highly privileged and trained scientists being unemployed today (danger of proliferation !) could be retrained for the production of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, for example, which would also require investments in refurbishing chemical plants. Conversion programs are also to be prepared well in advance with regard to the end of CW destruction: how does one reuse already established facilities? How does one continue to provide sustainable employment for the population? Where might the technical specialists apply their skills?

The role of Switzerland: While the U.S. and many of the larger European states focus their support for CWD on "Hard tools," relatively small Switzerland – now being a member of the UN – could play a key role in "soft tools" by providing disaster preparedness, facilitation, mediation and co-ordination.

If Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) would have actually been discovered in Iraq, it would have clearly been necessary to make use of soft tools concerning their safe and environmentally sound destruction; only with such public involvement and facilitation would citizen opposition be precluded. As can be seen in regard to the actual situation in Iraq today, soft tools are also needed in many other ways in order to build consensus and civil society, and to preclude opposition and violence.

Part II:

It is widely understood that water, oil, and nuclear energy can be used for political power games, and that scarcity of resources such as drinking water, gas, or oil could lead to conflict and perhaps even war, especially if there is inequitable distribution of such resources.

Green Cross has a large 'Water for Peace' program (see www.greencrossinternational.ch) and has also established a clean energy program.

Americans are perhaps not sufficiently aware that there is broad common public opinion overall in Europe that Bush went to war with Iraq primarily because of the oil.

But certainly US citizens are aware of the tensions which are created with North Korea because of the perceived nuclear threat.

Neither oil nor nuclear power are "democratic energies." They are under the control of global corporation or of national governments. Their production and distribution will always be grounds for conflict.

"Democratic energies" are the renewable ones and energy efficiency. Both can be produced and used locally or regionally. Both are "democratic" in the sense that they cannot be used very well for political power games and they offer little reason for conflict. So we need to switch to the democratic soft tools of Clean Energy, not only because of the threat of global warming and climate change, but also to avoid conflict and war.

But these soft tools are not yet widely spread in energy policies: While the nuclear option has its International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna and big Oil and Gas have their International Energy Agency (IEA), there is no International Sustainable Energy Agency (ISEA) yet which could strengthen energy efficiency and renewable energy options globally in both industrialized and developing countries.

So Swiss MP Roland Wiederkehr has placed a motion (binding resolution for the Government if accepted by the Parliament) in the National Council of Switzerland, signed by members of all parties:

Motion presented to the Swiss National Council for the creation of an International Sustainable Energy Agency

(Translation from the original German text with inserted clarifications and abbreviations in brackets)

UN Agency for Renewable Energy in Geneva. Switzerland as Initiator

Submitted by [Wiederkehr Roland](#)

Date of Submission 21 June 2002

[Texte franc](#)



Submitted at National Council
Parliamentary Status Not further dealt with in plenary assembly

Submitted Text

The Federal Council is asked to request the United Nations to create an International Sustainable Energy Agency to be headquartered in Geneva. An agency for renewable energy is needed to complement the International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA. While IAEA covers only a few percent of the world energy demand, renewable energies contribute about 20 %. For the next fifty years an average annual renewable energy growth rate of 5.2 % is needed to compensate the depletion of fossil fuels and to satisfy the expected total energy consumption of 2 %. To reach this goal, efforts must be coordinated at all levels (centres of competence, statistics, forecasts). This is most credibly done by a relevant UN agency.

Reply by the Federal Council 04.09.2002.

The Federal Council is aware of the importance of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency in the future. The enhancement of renewable energies and improved energy efficiency – as endeavoured by the “Swiss Energy” program – must also become a central concern on the international level. The Federal Council therefore shares the opinion of the supporters of the motion, that an international coordination is important and ranks this subject as a top priority.

The UN and many of its specialized organizations are intensely dealing with this subject since the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED 1992; Rio de Janeiro), due to its central importance for the needs of a healthy environment, for an efficient economy and for the solidarity of a balanced society (sustainability). Also at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD August 2002; Johannesburg), this subject is playing an important role and will be intensely discussed on top levels. Likewise the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) was dealing with this subject in its 9th session. The World Bank and the Global Environment Fund (GEF) promote systematically renewable energies in the developing countries.

The necessary investments in coming decades can only be done in cooperation with private sector economy. For this reason the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which is responsible for the promotion of new industrial activities, has an important role to play. As regards the biomass, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) unfolded many activities. Also the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Organization of the United Nations for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) started activities in the domain of renewable energy. The Conference of the United Nations for Trade and Development organized seminars and conferences on this subject. The UN dealt with it also regionally (e.g. in the Committee for Sustainable Energy of the UN-ECE. The International Energy Agency (IEA), a body affiliated to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), is intensely dealing with this subject. Likewise the European Union is doing R&D programs with Swiss participation.

The cooperation between experts of the individual nations in such bodies functions. An exchange of information on research and development as well as strength-weakness analyses of programs and projects takes place.

The Federal Council states, that it welcomes in principle private initiatives for achieving the goal of sustainability. Initiatives of the institutional kind, such as the creation of a new UN agency are of an inter-governmental nature and must therefore be distinguished from private initiatives. The Federal Council is of the opinion that new organizations should not be a priority, but rather existing bodies should be better used, such as the different working parties within IEA, in which Switzerland is actively engaged on the subjects of renewable energy as well as energy efficiency. Different working groups cooperate closely with the mentioned UN institutions.

Because of the complexity of the subject matter and the immense multitude of possible activities, there not much willingness is expected on the international level to create a new institution with the respective competencies and provided with the necessary resources. On a short term, for the commendable initiatives for the creation of a new agency for renewable energy, a good resonance cannot be expected, particularly as regards the provision of the

necessary resources. The promotion of renewable energies must first be intensified through existing institutions. It is important that a coordination and synergies take place and that duplications of programs and contradictions are avoided if possible. But it is also a necessity, that the private sector is getting involved, because of the big investments needed for a sustainable energy supply, which cannot be provided by individual nations.

It is the goal of the Federal Council to reinforce Geneva as international environmental city. Actually there is a big space demand for the establishment of new programs and institutions. The space reserves of Geneva are limited. Particularly the environment house, which was realized by a interest-free repayable credit approved by the Swiss parliament, reached already its capacity limit. The Federal Council is therefore not in a position, in order to honour the other environmental candidates for a seat in Switzerland, to make an offer for the Geneva as a seat. If the foundation of the agency should materialize on the mid-term, the Federal Council is ready to examine again the question of domiciliation.

Declaration of the Federal Council 04.09.2002

The Federal Council requests to convert the motion into a postulate.

Responsible	Federal Department for Foreign Affairs (EDA)
Co-Signatories	Aeschbacher Ruedi - Bader Elvira - Beck Serge - Bernasconi Madeleine - Christen Yves - Cina Jean-Michel - Cuche Fernand - de Dar del Jean Nils - Decurtins Walter - Donzé Walter - Dormann Rosmarie - Dupraz John - Egely Jacques-Simon - Fehr Hans-Jürg - Fehr Mario - Frey Claude - Galli Remo - Garbani Valérie - Grobet Christian - Guisan Yves - Günter Paul - Hess Peter - Lachat François - Leutenegger Oberholzer Susanne - Maillard Pierre-Yves - Meyer Thérèse - Nabholz Lili - Neiryneck Jacques - Polla Barbara - Rechsteiner Rudolf - Rennwald Jean-Claude - Scheurer Rémy - Schmid Odilo - Sommaruga Simonetta - Stump Doris - Suter Marc F. - Teuscher Franziska - Tillmanns Pierre-Waber Christian - Zapfl Rosmarie (40) (plus the initiator of the Motion Wiederkehr (41))
Descriptors	Renewable energy; UN (special); Energy research; service; Geneva (Canton); 66;

The contradictory reply to the motion shows the dilemma with the necessary acceleration of the world-wide implementation of clean, sustainable energies. The urgency of this transition, due to the rapid depletion of the mineral energy resources and the Kyoto Protocol obligations, is not sufficiently realized, and also not the problems outside the 26 industrialized nations of OECD-IEA: The remaining 165 UN member states suffer much more from excessive pollution from coal and are suffocating under negative trade balances due to petroleum imports. The reply also does not touch the world-wide urgency due to exponentially increasing disasters, causing billions of dollars in damage, lost lives and migrations from inundated river and coastal areas. Nor does it take into consideration that clean energy can avoid conflict.

So let's try harder. By using more soft tools.

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