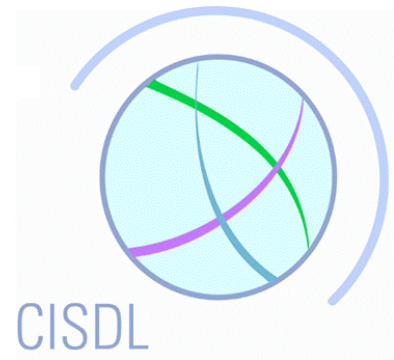


<b>CISDL Doc. #:</b> P2-S2N.E	<b>Session:</b> Presentation 2, Welcome from Canadian & South African Legal Community
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b> 2002-06-13 10:00 am	<b>Speaker:</b> Me. Simon Potter
<b>Rapporteur:</b> [Wilma Hovius]	<b>Language:</b> English



## **Welcome from the Canadian & South African Legal Community**

**June 13, 2002, Montreal**

- 1) Context: Reflection from within Canadian Bar Association
- 2) SD has moved from a catch phrase to a more defined term (since 1987)
  - a) This definition avoids absolutes (without compromising ability of future generations to meet their own needs)
- 3) THEME: it is very dangerous to speak in absolute terms, as absolutes cannot resolve anything on the ground. We need an integrated approach that avoids absolutes.
- 4) There is now no doubt that SD is a critical and necessary step to save our people and the environment. Changes in attitude have been quite dramatic and underlie the success of a conference such as this one.
- 5) Everyone also agrees that SD is not just about the environment. It is about the multisection not only of environmental integrity, but also of economic development and social equity (which involves human rights questions, equitable access, sharing, and rules regarding the use of development, ect).
  - a) We can as reasonable people disagree as to where this intersection or trisection exists, however, we must avoid rigidly sticking to one “camp”.
- 6) With all this rapid development, there still lurk dangers in the discussion of SD:
  - a) There has been a jockeying of position of various actors in the SD development.
    - i) Talk of sustainable or sensible development: we need to clearly define what these things mean.
    - ii) Must be VERY CLEAR of the words and beware of SIMPLICITY.
    - iii) Must avoid camps because solutions require overlap and integration of the efforts of many, as sitting in one camp may retard development and solutions.
      - (1) Globalization camp is a good example
        - (a) Globalization rules are sometimes pro-SD (ex. Softwood lumber dispute in Canada and the USA)
- 7) In conclusions, SD is a complex notion that is difficult to operationalize. Difficult to implement.
- 8) We must AVOID THE ABSOLUTES AND SIMPLISTICS, and “Get down to the concept of SDL”.