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General Comments on Rio+20 Zero Draft of the Outcome Document

We at Yachay Wasi feel that too much emphasis is put in this Draft on the economic aspect of Sustainable Development, completely forgetting the respect for the earth that First Nations (Indigenous Peoples) have demonstrated over centuries.

It is that spirit, which is a reflection of spiritual values, which must be renewed to motivate this modern society to take the environmental threat seriously and really try to save the planet.

“Preserving and protecting the life support system of our common home, our shared planet” is the Priority, not “eradication of all forms of Poverty”

The 3 pillars of sustainable development should be:
Environmental, Ethical (Spiritual better, but will not be approved) and Economical.

Chapter III

Title: Green Economy (???) in the context of Sustainable Development. (Again, poverty eradication is not a priority)

GREEN ECONOMY has already become a catch phrase used by businesses and advertising regardless of sustainable values of products. It has lost its integrity and should not be associated with Rio+20. The term should be replaced.

Again Economy is not the important word. Good economy will be a result of sustainable activities.

Chapter IV Parag. 51:

UNEP capacity should be strengthened and it should become the Specialized Agency for Environment and Sustainable Development.

A Specialized Agency would include enhanced partnerships with local governmental authorities and civil society organizations.

Yachay Wasi supports UNEP as it has demonstrated over past years its commitment to spirituality in biodiversity issues. Fora were organized and books were published (i.e. Cultural and Spiritual Values of Biodiversity, 1999; Earth and Faith, a Book of Reflection for Action, 2000)

Chapter V

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM should be added

From Yachay Wasi submission to Compilation Document:

Sustainable development goals should include SUSTAINABLE TOURISM as it was discussed and defined at the 7th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 1999. Unfortunately, since then, the social aspects of SUSTAINABLE Tourism (not ECOTOURISM as it has been since promoted by the World Tourism Organization) have been forgotten. Especially, the following one:

“ If more Indigenous ownership could be developed, the perception of tourism as a foreign-dominated sector would be reduced.” (UN Doc. E/CN.17/1999/5/Add.2 Chapt. III Parag.30)