

Environment and local democracy

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- Democracy
- Non governmental organizations (NGOs)
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Introduction

- The world is changing
 - More complex & challenging
- Democracy changing shape
- Quality of decision-making more important
- Decision levels
- Conflicts
 - Between different levels
 - Corporations and people
 - Consumption and conservation
- Referrals - **ОБЩЕСТВЕННЫЕ СЛУШАНИЯ**
- The NGO - an important resource

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Environment

- Problems
 - Pollution – garbage- & wastehandling – global warming – overconsumption of energy – consumption of natural resources
- Responsibility
 - An obligation for the future
 - An obligation for the present
- Sustainability
 - To live up to these obligations we must not sacrifice the future for short term personal interests

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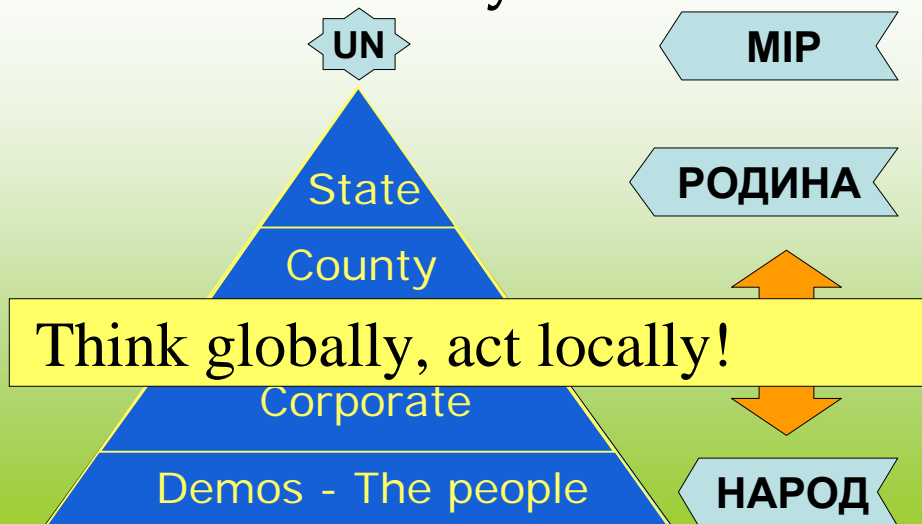
Democracy

- Definition:
 - "A government that give the people a deciding political influence through voting"
- Character of a modern democracy:
 - Freedom of speech and religion
 - Respect for the rights of the minority
 - Tolerance towards different opinions
- The best system there is

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Democracy - levels



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Democracy

- Political decision making
 - Rule #1: Know what you do
 - Rule #2: Open process
 - ✓ Democratic control – oversight
 - ✓ Bring all aspects forward
 - ✓ Brings all parties out in the open
- Bring out the power vested in the people

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Local democracy

- Strengths of Local democracy
 - Local knowledge
 - Personal interest
 - Fuelled by the power of self preservation
- Problems
 - It demands popular participation
 - ✓ When basic needs are met – interests go egocentric
 - If unfamiliar – Its has to be learned
 - ✓ To voice your opinion
 - ✓ To listen to it
 - Participants are susceptible of pressure
 - ✓ Minority vs majority.
 - ✓ To stand in the way of “Economic progress”
 - ✓ Undemocratic use of power – “bullying”

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Non governmental organizations

NGOs

- Voicing the silent majority
 - Representing the people
- Voicing the silent minority
 - Be stronger than single individuals
- Representing interest groups
- Enriching the public debate
- Strengthening democracy

NGO NGO NGO NGO

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NGO

Non governmental organizations

- Formal part of decision making
 - Consultative status in the UN
 - Consultative status in politics
 - Judicial part in current cases
- Taking active part in referrals
 - ОБЩЕСТВЕННЫЕ СЛУШАНИЯ
- Source of public knowledge
 - Through participation
 - Through the press

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Sustainable development

- Sustainability
 - *Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*
 - This is a great challenge
 - But what is the alternative?
- Who knows what's right
 - International corporations
 - ✓ The blind eye of capitalism
 - Politicians
 - ✓ Short term profit overrules long term effects
 - Regional interest
 - Local interests

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The right path

- We must give the world a chance
- Politicians does not own the truth alone
- More responsibility is necessary on all levels
- Corporations need to be scrutinized
- Oversight & control is needed
- The NGO is a tool for public control and for conveying the peoples voice
- The NGO is strongly needed in controlling the development of Oil and Gas industry

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What do we (MIP) need?

- Democracy need to be strengthened
 - NGOs need to be used
 - NGOs need economic support
 - NGOs need to be protected from harassment
- The alternative is:
 - A weaker democracy
 - No sustainability



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We (MIP) do not need this!



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