

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, THE SDGS – WHAT AND WHEN?

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Stakeholder Forum

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Rio+20 outcome, the SDGs were the surprise

- SDG time-line
- The SDGs are not set in stone, yet, but are being developed and negotiated as we speak through the so-called Open Working Group, the OWG.
- At the moment this is a stock-taking process, which will be finished in February 2014. Following that, the UN Secretariat will produce a synthesis document, a Zero Draft, ready by March/April 2014, which will be negotiated at the UN General Assembly “for consideration and appropriate action” between September 2014 and onwards, to receive final decision by the UNGA September 2015.

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MDGs and SDGs - integrated

Mdg/Sdg Dichotomy

- MDGs - the Millennium Development Goals have had a strong social impact
- The SDGs must have as much impact as the MDGs
- The SDGs should be ambitious but feasible
- The MDGs will be integrated into the SDGs

THE SDG CHALLENGE

- The SDGs need to address all three dimensions of sustainable development which is a very complex agenda:
 - The social
 - The economic
 - The environmental

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The SDG stock taking process

AGREED

- Agreement on process to develop the SDGs
- The SDGs must have relevance for all countries - the universality principle
- The SD Goals need to be generic in nature to have universal relevance
- The SDGs need to have a large element of differentiation, meaning to have targets that are country specific

AGREED - ALMOST

- Eradication of poverty
- Health
- Water and sanitation
- Eradicate hunger, healthy nutrition
- Education - access and quality
- Employment (especially for youth)

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The SDG stock taking process

NOT SO AGREED

- Energy
- Production capacity
- Resilience to shocks/disaster preparedness
- Climate change
- Biodiversity and forests (discussed February, 2014)
- Oceans (Feb 2014)

CONTESTED

- Means of implementation, focus:
 - Finance
 - Technology
- Inequalities including gender issues
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Human rights and governance
- Peace and security
- Urban and mobility

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The SDG stock taking process

DEBATED

- The economic and environmental dimension
- Genuine integration and how to deal with the means of implementation
- Should goals be cross-cutting or goal specific
- Strengthen global partnerships

OVERARCHING QUESTION

- How to make the pots 2015 development agenda truly transformational
- What does it mean to have *global* goals, yet adaptability to *national* circumstances?

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SDGs - what nature?

- Universality - how does the SDGs apply to each and every country in the world?
- A set of goals of a generic nature - negotiated
- A set of targets, geographically relevant, negotiated
- A set of indicators, a result of expert group deliberations

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Is there a conflict of interest

- Between development paradigms?
- Between traditional development groups and environmental groups?
- Is the "integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development" really understood?

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Is poverty really an SDG goal?

- That probably more poor people live in middle-income countries is in itself a challenge as it raises the issue of how we deal with severe or growing inequalities within these countries. It may mean that that CSOs focusing on service delivery, often as sub-contractors to the state or external donors, have to re-orientate themselves to address local political constraints. It also suggests that the traditional response of direct measures for poverty reduction may not be adequate. (from CIVICUS)

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Poverty or Inequality?

- Meanwhile, greater inequality (in both rich and poor countries) is also discounted in the agendas of discussions on our future. This is despite clear consequences of inequality, which at one level can lead to increased political instability and violence, and at the other end to entrenching poverty. (FROM CIVICUS)
- But the real challenge in many countries is to build a middle class constituency for transformative change, particularly in countries that have little philanthropic experience among the general populace,(FROM CIVICUS)

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How conservative are you?

- “Political institutions develop often slowly and painfully over time as human societies strive to organise themselves to master their environments. But political decay occurs when political systems fail to adjust to changing circumstances....

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- When the surrounding environment changes and new challenges arise, there is often a disjunction between existing institutions and present needs. We often see existing institutions supported by legions of entrenched stakeholders who oppose any fundamental change.”

▫ Francis Fukuyama: The origins of political order, Profile Books, 2011

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Just a thought from linus



- ▣ ...I love humanity, it's people I cannot stand

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... and for the record

- ▣ "Optimism is the fuel of heroes, the enemy of despair and the creator of the future."

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Thank you

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