

# Working Group

- Implementation of Rio + 20

# General Comments on Rio+20

- The Group discussed the RIO+20 outcomes and noted that the high hopes and expectations of the peoples of the world were not realized
- The outcomes were weak in real commitments beyond political declarations and reaffirmations of RIO principles and decisions of other previous summits
- Outcomes did not address fundamental development concerns of developing countries
- It basically reinforced the financialization of the environment – which puts more control in the hands of corporations rather than communities and people

- It failed to recognize and address the Durban outcome which dealt a death blow to global solidarity, collapsed Kyoto protocol, allowing rich industrialized countries to renege on their responsibilities
- It allowed North to push through a development paradigm within Rio process, which they have not been able to realise in WTO

- In planning implementation of the Rio+20 outcome we are interested in recognizing the weaknesses, weaknesses that underscore the non-implementation of RIO Agenda 21
- We should be rearticulating the central global principles underpinning the quest for a sustainable world that we want

- In discussing the world that we appreciate the inclusion of a fourth pillar of sustainability – that of Governance
- And the recognition that credible Institutional Framework is desirable for Sustainable Development

- The discussions noted the need to build clarity on the world we want in general and specific terms
- That the clarity about how to realise the world we want is about processes which are underpinned by shared global SD principles
- In particular the 1992 principles – polluter pays, precautionary and CBDR.

- The Group notes that the world we want is a low carbon economy, founded on new patterns of production and consumption, allowing for the needs of all in society
- In this light the conceptualization of green economy – characterized by low carbon emissions, among other sustainable development goals, should seek to realise fundamental rights of all peoples, especially social, economic and cultural rights

- The group notes the importance of agriculture in the lives of the people in Africa
- It notes that the future we want must necessarily develop agriculture in a manner that reestablishes peoples' control over farming systems, recapture from corporations control over land, inputs and markets

- There is the need to recapture control over public/social goods from Corporations noting that “Public goods are the those goods whose consumption shall not be determined by the individual but by the society as a whole”
- Public goods are therefore entitlements whose enjoyment cannot be constrained by the limited financial means of individuals
- We need mechanisms that ensure that these goods and services are produced to meet the needs of people today and in the future
- Education Health water public transport and energy are key public goods whose governance mechanism must be developed with active involvement of the people

- The financial resources for the world we want must be raised from the rich industrialized countries based on the affirmed 1992 principles
- Meanwhile African countries must pay serious attention to the huge illicit financial outflows from Africa.
- “Between 1970 and 2008 illicit fin flows from Africa amounted to about 854 billion US dollars which could have satisfied the continent external debt obligations and left a surplus of 600 billion US dollars to reduce poverty and stimulate economic development”

- Thank you
- Extractives
- Industrialisation and economic transformation

- Poverty and inequality remain Africa's biggest challenges despite the economic growth that has been enjoyed by most of the countries on the continent over the last few decades. African countries need economic transformation, beyond economic growth, to cope with population increases, to increase jobs, to be globally competitive and to create conditions for better governance and ultimately sustainable development.