Working group 2: the inter-linkages and synergies between the post Rio+20 and the post-2015 development framework

Introduction

In respect of Rio+20 ("The Future We Want" outcomes document) we have noted:

1. "The Future We Want" fell short of commitments for action in respect of Africa and the needs and demands of Africa's people, as reflected in paragraph 184., which records Africa's progress but fails to articulate any specific, time-bound or measurable actions in support of these efforts being undertaken by Africa;

2. The reference to "Green Economy" (paragraph 56.) fails to meaningfully engage with the proposals for a just and equitable development system, based on the principles contained in the Rio 1992 Declaration.

3. The undertaking to create an enabling environment for technology transfer and "international cooperation to promote investment in science, innovation and technology for sustainable development", as well as recognising the importance of "strengthened national, scientific and technological capacities";

4. The process to establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly to assess financing needs and frameworks, which however repeats other similar processes and fails to provide significant implementation of the 0.7% funding commitments for ODA;

5. Paragraph 277. Refers to "Capacity Building" without sufficient recognition of the limitations and barriers that exist for effective implementation, which extends beyond the scope of "capacity building". Much of the "capacity building" is ineffective and inappropriate, reinforcing and strengthening the systemic and structural limitations to implementation;

6. Good governance is widely referred to throughout the text. In the absence of a good governance architecture for sustainable development at global, regional and national level effective implementation of the three pillars remains difficult.

In respect of the MDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda

1. MDG's wasn't Africans countries idea's;

2. The MDGs had a positive impact on the poor in Africa in terms of focused global attention and mobilizing resources on the most pressing development needs such maternal health and child mortality. None-the-less, the discourse was marred with shortcomings that range from a reductionist nature of the set of goals to a lack of participation in their development.

3. Cases of success are matched with higher cases of failure on MDGs across different groups, countries, targets, etc

4. The populations we work with have taught us that they do not want hand-outs, they want an opportunity to enjoy a decent life of dignity for themselves. They are calling for a framework that will change the rules of the game.

5. Hence, in reflecting on the linkage between Post Rio and Post MDGs, we take note of the following issues;

Issues

1. Concerned that Africa is disillusioned by decades of Broken Promises during which the leaders, governments and institutions of the world have failed the planet and its people; a failure that is endemic and chronic, continuous and entrenched in the operations and activities of world leaders and global institutions where fear, cowardice and short-term expediency overwhelms' our leaders;

2. Aware that lack of accountable and good governance at both the national and international levels remains a major stumbling block to achieving the commitments and targets of both the Rio and MDG agenda's.

3. Angered by the fact that, though the notion of participation of the vulnerable groups, youth, minorities, women and marginalized groups and the population at large has been widely accepted, it is only partially and mechanically implemented both at the international and national levels. Without people's participation developmental outcomes will always be viewed as imposed from above and consequently not enjoy the full confidence of people on the ground.

4. Observing that the obsession with growth as measured by GDP growth results in inequitable, skewed and environmentally harmful development, a type of growth which undermines the rights of people, and in particular vulnerable groups such as local communities and indigenous peoples.

5. Being aware that multiple crises (finance, environment, food security) are undermining communities' livelihoods and capacity to adjust to climate change, and that a minimum of social protection for the greater majority of citizens is not yet guaranteed.

6. Realizing that lack of financial commitments by the developed countries has undermined the achievement of MDGs and Agenda 21 and implementation at the national level.

7. Insisting that in terms of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration access to public information and information sharing is essential to the implementation of National Sustainable Development Plans, which are continuously ignored by most States.

8. Being concerned that traditional, indigenous and local knowledge are increasingly under threat by inappropriate and harmful technological practices and dumping of excess capacity of industrialised countries, e.g. "green piracy", carbon trading, genetically modified seeds and products, industrial pesticides and fertilizers, which in effect reduce traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices.

Recommendations:

1. We debated between a no-framework at all situation and concluded that there is a need for a single over-arching global framework whose vision is transformative change towards inclusive, people centred sustainable development. The people and the planet must be on the centre of this vision.

2. We recommend a merger of the post Rio and the post MDGs process into a single strand. The two processes must not run parallel as this may risk creating policy duplication, contradictions and overall policy incoherence. This will give us coherence between global and international policies.

3. There should be a paradigm shift from the common concept of development and growth people focused development is that which brings food and empowers the citizens so employment and decent work should be the focus of sustainable development and green economy. This goal engineers realistic decisions making it egalitarian sustainable. This approach solves security concerns addresses social responsibilities and priorities development of industries, public work surfaces as catalyst of job creation

4. Minimum Platform of Social Protection
We recommend a minimum platform of social protection. To save the planet it is necessary for people to have minimum level of life reflected in a core minimum of social protection of all people and a living wage for all those who are employed.

5. We call for a people-centred green economy that respects human rights and upholds the Rio 1992 principle (polluter pays, precautionary, and common but differentiated responsibility), promoting the well-being of citizens based on equitable development, fairness, justice, safety and security for the common good, and benefits for all living beings on this planet and that recognises the intrinsic value of ecological systems that supports present and future generations.

6. Establish good governance at a global and national level as a corner stone on all development frameworks to promote integrated decision making to fill the implementation gap and promote coherence across institutions and ensure stronger participatory decision making process.

7. Domestication of all binding and enforceable mechanisms especially those which protects rights, including legal provisions and their effective implementation. Also policies and encouraging acceptance of gender equality as part of social norms and behaviours, reducing of gender inequalities in labour markets and access to productive resources, protecting of reproductive rights and improving access to good quality, health and education services and social protection.

8. ICSECR implemented by 2015

9. Enabling environment for peoples participation and access to information

10. Implement New Tax regime to finance commitments: Financial Transaction Tax & Extractive Industries Tax