



Co-Chairs' Statement

Post-Rio to Post-2015: Planning International Stakeholder Engagement

Key conclusion: Working with governments, the UN System and other stakeholders, we must seek to achieve coherence and integration across all decision-making processes within the post-Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agenda time period. The aim must be the establishment of one development agenda, which works towards producing a single set of global goals for post-2015 and puts sustainable development at its heart. This includes ensuring ever greater inclusivity of all stakeholders within these processes.

Background

On 21st and 22nd October 2012, Major Groups and stakeholders from across the globe came together in order to **discuss** the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (otherwise known as Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, **agree** on priorities for action in order to accelerate these outcomes, **address** areas where no progress or agreement was made and **advance** the post-2015 development agenda.

While it was recognised that Rio+20 has created numerous entry points via new processes for advancing sustainable development, stakeholders focused on five key themes for the event:

1. The new **governance architecture** post Rio+20, and the potential role of Major Groups, and the space for engagement from local to global levels, most notably the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) established at Rio+20;
2. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda**, including the role of Major Groups and stakeholders in their design and implementation;
3. The **green economy** in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, including Beyond GDP;
4. The 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (**10YFP on SCP**);
5. A focus on **implementation and delivery** of the Rio+20 outcomes, including mobilisation of finance, technology and resources.

Outcomes and Views

The above themes are critical to defining the post-2015 development agenda between now and 2015. In discussing these themes, three clear outcomes of the event emerged:

1. Inform stakeholders of entry points and opportunities to influence in the post-Rio to post-2015 time period.

2. Establish a clear call from stakeholders for integration of the relevant processes. Integration refers not only to providing coherence between the various Rio+20 follow-up processes, but also between these processes and the post-2015 development agenda. Not a single stakeholder expressed an alternative view or concern against such integration.
3. Develop a collection of actions for immediate priority which can/should be taken forward to ensure the momentum created in Rio+20 is not lost and that real progress towards sustainability is achieved. These actions will provide a valuable addition to the public dialogue on the post-Rio to post-2015 period.

Overall, the views that stakeholders expressed at the event can be converged into a few broad points:

1. The need for coherence between the different decision-making processes to create one development agenda to which all these processes contribute and combine in order to create a cohesive whole;
2. The need to consider the issues, challenges and solutions as global in nature and universal in application, but also bearing in mind that no one size fits all and any new agenda or framework must take into account the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR).
3. The need for improvements in the opportunities and enabling resources for stakeholder engagement and participation in the post-Rio and post-2015 processes. This includes, for example, formal mechanisms for engagement, financial support and capacity building programmes;
4. The need to actualise the implementation of the 10YFP for SCP which has now been formally adopted, while other processes are still in pre-implementation phases;
5. Along with governments, stakeholders are key implementers. Therefore, stakeholder engagement in shaping processes and decisions is of considerable benefit to implementation.

Developing Actions

Day two of the event was focused on the development of a **Framework for Action** to enable Major Groups and stakeholders to engage with the post Rio+20/post-2015 processes, and to stimulate the implementation and delivery that is urgently needed. Working together, the event participants developed many strong action points. It should be noted that these actions should not be taken as consensually agreed amongst all participants. In fact, some actions may indeed be conflicting. However, what is important is that these actions feed into and become a part of the public discourse and debate on what needs to be done to advance sustainable development from post-Rio to post-2015 and beyond.

A full list of the actions developed by stakeholders at the event is provided in the Event Summary document. An amalgamated list of the actions is given below to demonstrate what such a Framework for Action could look like:

| Actions for Stakeholders: |
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| 1. We must strategically engage with our own, other and untapped networks to encourage stakeholders to participate in the post-Rio and post-2015 processes. |
| 2. We must actively engage with the processes, with a particular focus on the HLPF as the main governance body for post-2015/SDGs, and insist on openness, transparency and participation of stakeholders. |
| 3. We should seek to work together to centralise information and disseminate via social media. |
| 4. We should seek to build coordination and coherence across the development agenda, engaging all groups. |
| 5. The Major Groups should develop Terms of Reference that clarify roles, mandates, and ensure an open, participatory, transparent, inclusive, and effective process, taking into account regional and gender balances, among other issues. Assessments and consultations on how to integrate underrepresented constituencies could support this process. |
| 6. We must acknowledge, in approaching both the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda, the intrinsic linkages between the sustainable development and poverty eradication agendas: environmental system preservation (i.e. national resource management) as an inherent necessity for human development. |
| Actions for National Governments: |
| 1. We call upon Member States to actively work toward the integration of the SDG process with the post-2015 process or explain why not this is not being done. More broadly, governments must actively seek coherence and integration of all relevant international policies and processes related to the sustainable development agenda (e.g. climate, finance, etc.). |
| 2. We call on governments to make the post-Rio+20 and post-2015 processes open, participatory, transparent, inclusive, and effective. Ensure that civil society is given access to information, included in the decision-making process, and able to increase accountability of decisions. |
| 3. We ask national governments to create consultations and fora with stakeholders across countries and processes, and provide resources and funding for stakeholder engagement. |
| 4. Governments must ensure that post-2015 consultations involve all countries, not only developing countries. The consultation process should be open, participatory, transparent, inclusive, effective, and should include assessments and recommendations of the sustainable development situation at the national level. National consultations should also include parliamentary debates. |
| 5. We would like to see governments clarify the ownership, institutions and financing of sustainable development encouraging a shared ownership across national government departments. Governments should give the highest priority to designing, monitoring, and implementing sustainable development policies, as well as enhancing or establishing National Councils for Sustainable Development (NCSDs) and creating mechanisms to link the NCSDs with the global agenda. |
| Actions for the UN System/UN Agencies: |
| 1. The UN should provide capacity building programmes and processes for Major Groups and stakeholders, facilitate communication tools for engagement and provide sufficient funding for engagement. There should be a balance between regional and central support, and a focus on empowering grassroots and youth participation. |
| 2. We expect the UN to formalise Major Group consultations on all post-Rio processes, creating opportunities for stakeholder engagement and ensuring access to information for all by making conversations more public and inclusive, including through online campaigns, national dialogues. |
| 3. We want to establish or strengthen Major Groups engagement mechanism(s) with UN |

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| institutions, including ECOSOC and the HLPF on sustainable development and establish adequate funding mechanisms. All parties must ensure meaningful Major Group/stakeholder participation, building on best practices of UN institutions. |
| 4. We want to see the UN have a clear role in helping business, governments and civil society become equal partners in developing and delivering the development agenda. |
| 5. The UN must ensure, in both post-Rio and post-2015 processes, the acknowledgement of the intrinsic linkages between the sustainable development and poverty eradication agendas: environmental system preservation as an inherent necessity for human development. |

Overall, the event was an important milestone to bring the ‘Rio+20 family’ back together for the first time since the Summit. As the Rio+20 Outcome Document acknowledges, sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of stakeholders. Ensuring that stakeholders are informed, capable and engaged will be key to not only the design of any solutions to our current challenges, but also their implementation. It is apparent from this event and its consultations that a vital element of success going forward must be the drive for ever greater inclusivity with clearer and stronger stakeholder engagement.

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This document reflects the views of the two organisations co-chairing the meeting and represents a synthesis of the diversity of views expressed by participants over the duration of the event. This has not been consulted with, or endorsed by, the Major Groups and stakeholder constituencies. We hope this statement will contribute to more open and inclusive work on the post-2015 development agenda.