

Conceptualizing a Set of Sustainable Development Goals
Special Event of the United Nations General Assembly Second Committee
ECOSOC Chamber, UN North Lawn Building, October 16th, 2012

1-Three main issues:

I-How could SDGs complement, build upon, the MDGs? And integrate Sustainable Development, be integrated, into the post-2015 development agenda?

II-How could SDGs balance, integrate, the three pillars of Sustainable Development?

III-How to develop universal goals that take into account differences in national realities, capacities and levels of development?

in order to inform the initial discussions of the “Open Working Group”.

2-I will address the three questions from three different perspectives:

I-Context.

II-Content.

III-Process.

hopefully not exceeding three minutes for each perspective.

I-Context:

1-Comparison between MDGs and SDGs:

- SDGs more complex: additional considerations (three pillars)
 - + broader in nature (not limited to developing countries).
- Both imply identifying a set of Goals and therefore Targets: simple,
Straightforward (catchy)
- Post-2015 Agenda, or framework: broader than just a set of goals.
- =Conclusion: Difference in nature + difference in scope.
- SDGs + post-2015 development agenda=broader.

2-Pre-MDGs:

- 1990s: Post-Berlin Wall.
 - Decade of the Summits.
 - Culmination in the Millennium Summit.
 - MDGs: non controversial + consensual + relatively simple process.

3-MDGs & Beyond:

- 2000s: 9/11 + security priorities.
 - Review Summits
 - Revisiting + Disillusionment in previous agreements
 - Emerging Challenges: financial crises
 - + gap of confidence
 - + costing (Climate change 100 billion per year @ 2020
Biodiversity more)
 - +controversial subjects (green economy, governance)
 - +sustainability challenge.

4-Conclusion: (1)Completing MDGs for the time being: before 2015

- +evaluating progress + lessons learned:
 - carrying over incomplete work and valid, legitimate goals.
 - +Inclusion, “setting” the post-2015.
- (2)Need for: a-integration of pillars in carried-over goals.
 - b-integration of SD nature in post-2015 agenda.
- (3)Different sets of goals for different sets of countries
- (4) Common goals with different responsibilities.

II-Content:

1-New generation of goals:

-Same fields, with new level of complexity, in accordance with new context:

Addressing quality of achievement

+Addressing New & Emerging Challenges.

i.e: education with employment, quality of health care,

children mortality with equal opportunity, scientific research with application

environment with growth, social services with profit.

2-Specific goals for sustainability: Climate change + biodiversity

+Integration of pillars in carry over goals

3-Universal but Different Realities:

+Different sets of Goals

+Costing + Identifying means of implementation.

+MRV

+Rio principles: CBRD

+in accordance with previous agreements, not revisiting

+partnership goals (developed + developing / vice versa)

III-Process:

1-Proliferation of Processes:

- Panel
- Task Force
- SDG OWG
- OWG MoI

- Inclusive (better than MDGs+ openness indispensable)
- Transparent.
- Intergovernmental
- Process (vs MDGs)
- Stakeholders
- Not at the expense of MDGs.

2-Reporting to 68th UNGA: Country Driven / with Panel and Secretariat input + NGOs. -Inter Governmental Process

3-Convergence + Coordination + Coherence = Complementarity Not: Divergence + Competition + Incoherence

4-Commence substantive work now, without altering Rio outcome (until appointment of 30 members).

- This event was supposed to give input to OWG!
- OWG was supposed to be established beginning of September at the latest.