


Spurring implementation of policy decisions - what have we learned from CSD (UN system, partnerships, voluntary commitments, and voluntary national reviews, outcomes)



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What have we learnt?

**There is an Implementation Gap**

# Implementation within the UN system

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- The first Ten Years – The Interagency Committee on Sustainable Development
  - Allocation and sharing of ***responsibilities for the implementation of A21*** by the United Nations system.
  - Support to ACC inter alia through ***identification of overall policy issues, major gaps and constraints related to sustainable development***;
  - Support to CSD, including ***preparation of analytical reports***;
  - Promoting joint programming and collaborative arrangements with, ad hoc inter-agency task forces for that purpose;
  - Members of IACSD participate in the ***implementation of the CSD*** work programmes of indicators for sustainable development
  - Assessment of ***new and existing reporting requirements*** and making recommendations for their streamlining;
  - members of the committee have actively contributed to the UN system website on ***national implementation*** of the Rio commitments.

# Rio and Voluntary National Reviews

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- Rio – voluntary or compulsory?
- Rio - national conservation strategies and environment action plans should be fully used and incorporated into a ***country-driven, participatory and sustainable development strategy***.
- This should be complemented with ***information networks and consultations with donor organizations in order to improve coordination***, as well as access to the existing body of scientific and technical knowledge and information available in institutions elsewhere

## Suggestions for the interagency coordination be

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- Under the Chief Executive Board:
  - Set up an **Interagency Committee on Sustainable Development**
  - Have UN Water, UN Energy and UN Oceans report to it?
  - Have the new IACSD also report to governments with an Annual Report
  - Relevant sections of that report should also go to the governing bodies of the Agencies and Programmes





## Agenda 21 said **Governments** should report on:

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- activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21:
- the problems they face, such as problems related to:
  - financial resources and
  - technology transfer,
  - and other environment and development issues they find relevant;



## CSD and National Reporting

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- 1994-1996 – **five countries** one per region presented their national report for peer group review
- Many produced with national stakeholders
- Reporting continued after the 1997 Five Year Review but **no peer group review**
- In 2003 the CSD adopted a work programme which resulted in the **timeline for national reports** to be in for July and not October.

## Suggestions to consider

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- Should national reports be voluntary?
- Should National Councils be involved with the production of national reports? – so they are government and stakeholder
- Should parliaments be asked to consider debating national reports?





## WSSD - Partnerships Type II Commitments”

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- G77 and China raise concern that partnerships were going to become a replacement for REAL political commitments
- The US was one of the leading promoters of partnerships – seeing an increased role for the private sector
- NGOs were split



## South African Bridge – Type 2 outcomes should

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- Achieve further implementation of A21 and the MDGs
- Complement globally agreed Type 1 outcomes and **NOT a substitute** for government commitments
- Be **participatory** with ownership shared among partners
- Be new initiatives
- Be international – global, regional or sub regional

## South African Bridge – Type 2 outcomes should

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- Integrate the **three pillars**
- Have clear objectives and set **SPECIFIC** targets and time frames to achievement
- Have a system of accountability including monitoring progress



## Type II Commitments”

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- “...voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21, Rio+5, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the internationally agreed development goals in the Millennium Declaration.”

## Bali Guiding Principles and General Assembly Resolution

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1. “***add value***” by furthering previously negotiated international commitments
2. “***be new*** – that is not merely reflect existing arrangements.”
3. “***complement***” not “replace.” Such that partnerships “**are not intended to substitute commitments** made by Governments but to supplement the implementation of” various international agreements.
4. be clearly ***linked to existing commitments***
5. include ***sustainable development*** in their design and implementation
6. achieve ***thematic and geographic balance*** as much as possible
7. inform ***national focal points*** about their activities and progress
8. be ***publicly announced***



## Recent The UN System Task Team

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- renewed **global partnership for development** underpinning the post-2015 development agenda
- should build on the **strengths of the current global partnership** for development while going beyond its framework
- a **strong commitment** to engage in collective actions with a clear distribution of tasks between developed and developing countries.

## MDG 8 also had important gaps and systemic shortcomings

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- A **large discrepancy** between its initial level of ambition and its implementation.
- partnerships could be **mainstreamed under each thematic goal** for accountability purposes, strengthening the links between goals and the means of achieving them.



# Accountability

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- Robust **accountability mechanisms** at the global, regional and national levels will be critical to **increase the effectiveness** of the renewed global partnership.
- By keeping **track of progress**, robust accountability will help **ensure that commitments** are being honored by all sides.

# Successful Partnerships

- trust among the partners;
- adequate time to develop and work;
- adequate resources (financial and in-kind);
- ongoing communication;
- flexibility;
- complementary skills among partners;
- equitable decision-making processes;
- ability to tolerate risk;
- leadership

# Some suggestions to consider

- **Priority on Partnerships:** How can evaluating the impact of partnerships help create momentum for implementation?
- **New vs. Ongoing Initiatives:** How can partnerships be encouraged to present a frank assessment of their challenges and successes?
- **Emphasis on Outcome:** By what metrics should partnerships be evaluated?





# Some suggestions to consider

- **Integrate with other initiatives:** How can we ensure that recommendations from the partnership experience are better informing policy decisions.
- **Financing:** How can development ministries be drawn into the process to help identify new resources for delivering partnerships?
- **Learning hub:** What is the role of the UN as a hub for learning on partnerships?



*Warning Partnerships are the icing on the cake **NOT** the cake – Government commitments need to be met*

From Rio in 1992 – the shortfall of funding to developing countries to implement Agenda 21 is between \$500 and \$1 trillion





Action and Accountability at the **RIO+20** Earth Summit and Beyond.

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June 19, 2012

## DEVELOPMENT BANKS COMMIT \$175 BILLION TO SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and seven other multilateral development banks (MDBs) commit to provide more than \$175 billion of loans and grants for transport in developing countries by 2022.

**Tyrell Dunlop**  
Director of Transport Division, Asian Development Bank

Category: Cities  
Amount: \$175,000,000,000

### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CLOUD

Launched at the Rio+20 Earth Summit, the Cloud aggregates and tracks commitments to take specific actions which contribute to the rapid transition to a low-carbon green economy. The Cloud is a first step in creating a global platform to record, encourage and hold accountable all of hundreds of initiatives being brought to Rio by governments at all levels, business, and civil society groups.

### SEARCH COMMITMENTS

KEYWORDS(S)

PLATFORMS

CATEGORIES

REGION

SEARCH

### FACEBOOK FEED

Cloud of Commitments shared a link. September 12, 2012 1:57 pm

The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, South Korea just adopted motion 167 calling upon the UN to establish "a mechanism to encourage, support and ensure accountability of partnerships, networks, initiatives and other such non-globally-negotiated commitments announced at Rio+20."

<http://portals.iucn.org/docs/2012congress/motions/en/M-167-2012-EN.pdf>  
portals.iucn.org

Cloud of Commitments shared a link. September 7, 2012 3:32 pm

OpEdNews Article: Sustainable Transportation gains momentum at

