



TALKING POINTS: POVERTY ERADICATION INPUTS TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SDGs CONSULTATIONS – 18 APRIL 2013, NEW YORK

1. There is a nexus between poverty and three pillars of sustainable development. In addressing SDGs, greater precaution need to be taken to provide opportunities for people trapped in poverty. We need to see the welfare of our people as drivers of this changing development paradigm. For instance, poverty and environment coexist at the detriment of the environment. Likewise poverty breed social disharmony and also economic deprivation lead to hopelessness of the society and breed more instability and insecurity.
2. More than often drawing experience from my own country, poor people living in fragile environment have limited opportunities and choices to meet their livelihood of which the immediate solution is to harvest existing resources within their backyard unsustainably. It is essential to recognise that if we intend to implement the ideals from the future we want in developing countries, the SDGs would need to be inclusive of all these conflicting interests confronting the poor.
3. Evidence suggests poor countries face major challenge to meet their own objective of environmental protection because of conflicting priorities. Likewise the social pillar demand support for health, education maternal gender among other social dimension.
4. Comparative analysis of poverty in urban provides interesting picture of escalating poverty in the urban centres in developing countries. The need to develop SDGs based on the MDGs is timely and conforms to a win-win solution for environment, social and economic growth.
5. The valuation of poverty usually identifies extreme poverty and hunger as a cornerstone of unacceptable human deprivation. This valuation have been based on a basic cost of living per day in comparison to the actual cost of living observed in developing and poorest countries of which in the MDGs, the income figures is US\$ 1.25 per day. The SDGs should extend further this benchmark to determine the valuation in terms of social costs, as well as that to the environment with a view to generate measurement that can stimulate solutions from three pillars of sustainable development. Success of SDGs will be measured by how much we scale up this income figure to deliver decent living for all in long term.
6. The inability of developed countries and the international community to support poor countries out of their unsustainable pathway and whose poverty levels are staggering is dangerous to environment. Available studies demonstrate that poverty add pressure to the environment which is already



stressed by the impact of climate change. A combination of unsustainable human activities on the environment under stress from climate change and lack of capacity and resources is a dangerous trend and thus addressing extreme poverty under the SDGs is a challenge of medium and long term.

7. Goals and targets for vulnerable countries and those in conflicts need to take into account two levels of what to be done at entry level of any intervention and how to ensure sustainability and satisfactory outcomes.
8. SDGs need to be encompassing and robust. It is yet to be seen the extent to which proposals would address the real challenges. However, there is no limit of what need to be included or what not. We believe that the consultations and negotiations will narrow down to SDGs which are immediate and required in the medium term. Inclusion of marginalised groups in the SDGs and various interests much as it is essential, can be challenging and can sometime distort the focus of the projected outcome. Holistic SDGs that take into account the interests of all could be the best option.
9. We believe that country ownership in developing and implementation of the SDGs is a foundation of success of the envisaged new paradigm of sustainable development. In this context, the implementation of the SDGs without clear focus and involvement of Member States at policy and implementation can deliver unsatisfactory outcome. Country ownership of the SDGs is essential and necessary.
10. We believe poverty is a major component of SDGs and expect positive proposals leading to medium and long term solutions.. There is a need to know the different responsibility of others for the poor people. Issue of climate change looms large.

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