

HLPF Side-event: "Country experiences of putting the Sustainable Development Goals into Action with poverty, environment and climate at the centre"

13 July 2016; 13:15-14:30

Organisers: Finland, Bangladesh, Indonesia (Fiscal Policy Agency, Ministry of Finance), Nepal (Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development), International Institute for Environment (IIED); WWF International; Development Alternatives; Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS); The Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) and OECD/DAC/ENVIRONET

Panelists:

- Masud Bin Momen, UN Ambassador for Bangladesh, LDC-chair, UN HQ
- Karma S Tshosar, Chief, Social and Humanitarian Division, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan
- Matti Nummelin, Senior Environmental Adviser, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland; and Chair of OECD/DAC/ENVIRONET
- Nik Sekhran, Director/Chief of Profession - Sustainable Development, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Facilitator:

- Andrew Norton, Director, International institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

This side event explored how to implement the SDGs to achieve zero extreme poverty, zero net greenhouse emissions and zero net loss of natural capital. It brought together countries in Global South and North to share experiences on how to "leave no one behind" while taking into account environmental sustainability and climate resilience. The session focused on empowerment, institutional and finance reforms, new metrics and the launch of this policy framework in a new report by the Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP) on "Getting to Zero".

The event was attended by over 70 participants.

The event was opened by Andrew Norton, Director at the International institute for Environment and Development (IIED). He welcomed participants and introduced the panellists. Representatives of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) opened the panel discussion. Masud Bin Momen, the UN Ambassador for Bangladesh and LDC Chair, explained that SDG work in Bangladesh is advanced. SDG activities are going to be integrated into the country's five-year development plan. Karma S Tshosar, Chief of the Social and Humanitarian Division in the Department of Multilateral Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan, highlighted that Bhutan's national happiness activities are the starting point for their SDG work. Both panellists stressed the importance of international cooperation and the need for external support for poor countries to implement SGD targets.

Providing a developed country example, Matti Nummelin, Senior Environmental Adviser at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and Chair of OECD/DAC/ENVIRONET, stated that sustainable development work in Finland has a long history. As a new innovation, non-state actors such as private sector and NGOs, alongside municipalities and state actors, can make publicly time-bound commitments to actions for sustainable development.

Nik Sekhran, Director/Chief of Profession of Sustainable Development at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), presented the Poverty-Environment Partnership (PEP) publication "[Getting to Zero](#)". He indicated that report will be an important tool for development cooperation work. The UNDP/UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) will apply its lessons when supporting countries to integrate environmental issues into their development strategies.

Discussion was opened up for all attendees. Participants representing governments, NGOs and UN agencies prompted discussion around developing the biodiversity-related targets of the SDGs, the priorities between poverty eradication and nature conservation, the role of women in environmental work and carbon neutral village development.