

A provocative challenge to civil society and the major
groups –

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COALITION OR DIVISION

—
VICTORY OR DEFEAT
HOW WILL WE
UNDERSTAND THE RIO
PROCESS

- ⦿ “Truth tells us how the world is; morality how it ought to be.” paraphrasing Kant
- ⦿ ‘If we have a platform, the worst thing we can do is fail to use the platform in support of worthwhile causes, whether or not we are personally no better than the rest of us in doing our individual bit’
- ⦿ AC Grayling

A unique situation

- ⦿ We have a document – the zero draft;
- ⦿ It is the result of:
- ⦿ The Bureau decision of March last year, inviting all stakeholders in the world to contribute to the draft outcome document is a unique decision in the history of mankind – it has never happened before

The zero draft

- A representative synthesis of what all stakeholders gave the UN DESA to synthesise
- 6 500 pages synthesised into 128 paragraphs on 20 pages

The choices we have

- We can accept or reject it
- Discard and ignore it
- Ridicule and criticise it
- See that we are at a historical crossroads and look for opportunities
- But we need to adopt a negotiation modus

It is a unique opportunity

● “the Pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The Optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty” – said Winston Churchill

Cross major group opportunities?

- How well do you know the text?
- Does the text in the zero draft document allow for coalition building across the nature and realities of the major group constituencies?

Cross major group opportunities?

- How much of the language in the document contains value based concepts, that divide civil society, and how much of the language are general concepts allowing for strategic agreement to ensure maximum agreement on issues to secure a robust outcome document?

A few impressions from civil society

- ⦿ The green economy scheme allows for the largest land grab in the history of humanity
- ⦿ This is a low level document, and nothing we can use. Its total lack of ambition makes the promises of Agenda 21 into a travesty
- ⦿ Any document should contain maximum ambitions, and when we start negotiation, we can defend the level and yield to pressure. As it is now, we find it useless

A few other comments

- ⦿ Yes, it lacks ambitions, but it is a good start and we can actually increase the ambitions as we go along -- instead of taking things out, we can put things in
- ⦿ We need a vision to the work, can that vision be expressed in the chapeau?

Comments from the Bureau

- ⦿ Too much emphasis on the environment
- ⦿ More action oriented
- ⦿ Too long, keep sectoral issues shorter
- ⦿ More emphasis on good governance and rule of law, transparency, accountability, gender, role of youth and education as means to achieve sustainable development

More comments from the Bureau

- ⦿ More emphasis on resource efficiency
- ⦿ Integration and implementation to be featured more prominently
- ⦿ More emphasis on the political will of developed countries
- ⦿ Land degradation and desertification treated separately
- ⦿ More emphasis on ECOSOC reform in the discussion of the SDC
- ⦿ Means of implementation not sufficiently addressed
- ⦿ Role of private sector highlighted

The structure of the document

1. Preamble/stage setting
2. Renewing Political Commitment
3. Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
4. Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development
5. Framework for action and follow-up

Before you start criticising the document

Think about the following:

- Is your criticism constructive?
- Where were you when you were invited to deliver content to the November 1 deadline?
- How willing are you to work within what is now on the table?

Strategic questions we need to ask ourselves

In the context of the agenda points –

- What is missing?
- What needs to be strengthened?
- Can we find agreed language and use that?
- If something is missing, where can I place that?
- Can I change the structure of the document?
- If a paragraph is there already, what will it take to get rid of that paragraph?

What do we need to look for?

- ⦿ Are all issues in the document really reflecting sustainable development?
- ⦿ Environment
- ⦿ Social
- ⦿ Economic
- ⦿ Governance
- ⦿ Implementation

How can we influence

- ⦿ Identify our area of concern
- ⦿ Develop or compose an enabling paragraph or sentence: We call for the UN to establish an expert group/a high level panel/ an committee of eminent persons/ to develop/ to work to establish etc ;
- ⦿ Not long, not too prescriptive and precise
- ⦿ Where in the document does our issue find its natural place?

From where can we pick up language?

- Existing reports and documents carried out to support content development of the Rio outcome document –
- Government prep meetings (Solo meeting, Delhi meeting, Beijing etc)
- All regional meetings
- The Global Sustainability Panel

Which issues were the informal government meetings presenting?

- High Level Dialogue on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development
- 19 – 21 July 2011, Solo, Indonesia
- Rio+20 and the Pacific, 21 – 22 July, Apia, Samoa
- High-Level Symposium on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- 8-9 September 2011, Beijing, China
- Delhi Ministerial Dialogue on 'Green Economy and Inclusive Growth'
- 3-4 October 2011, New Delhi, India

Which issues were the informal government meetings presenting?

- Energy for All: financing access for the poor
- 10 October 2011, Oslo Norway
- Sustainable Development Goals
- November, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
- Bonn 2011 Nexus Conference
- 18 – 21, Nov 2011 Bonn, Germany
- The Monaco Workshop on oceans and blue economy
- 28 – 30 November 2011, Monaco

Five RPMs

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory

- Santiago, September 7 to 9 2011
- Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the
- 16-17 October 2011
- The Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting
- 19–20 October 2011, Seoul

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA Regional Preparatory Conference

- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 20-25 October 2011

Economic Commission for Europe Regional Preparatory Meeting

- 1 and 2 December 2011,
Geneva, Switzerland

Who said what, how and when

- ① Study the text
- ① Find the proper entry point area
- ① Where is your tag-line?
- ① What and why do you want to enter?
- ① Do you have a strategy for a follow-up lobby effort?

Who said what, how and when

- ① Develop an enabling phrase or paragraph that fits into the correct area of the document
- ① Seek out your allies –government or civil society
- ① Develop convincing arguments with background papers

An enabling paragraph

- § 24: We call for a global policy framework requiring all listed and large private companies to consider sustainability issues and to integrate sustainability information within the reporting cycle

Where are the opportunities?

- ⦿ What does this paragraph give us?
- ⦿ A global policy framework – a voluntary system like the GRI or Global Compact system on sustainable development? Or even stronger – an opportunity to develop a framework convention on CSR using the experience from ISO 26 000 outcome documents?

Another opportunity

- **Cities**

§ 72. We commit to promote an integrated and holistic approach to planning and building sustainable cities through support to local authorities, efficient transportation and communication networks, greener buildings and an efficient human settlements and service delivery system, improved air and water quality, reduced waste, improved disaster preparedness and response and increased climate resilience.

Other opportunities

- § 72 has been criticised for being verbose, and not content specific –
- Cities are now mentioned as are urban issues, in § 62 –
- If we think that paragraph 72 is unsatisfactory, how can we improve it?

Section V, Framework for action and follow-up

- ◉ Food security
- ◉ Water
- ◉ Energy
- ◉ Cities
- ◉ Green jobs-social inclusion
- ◉ Oceans and seas
- ◉ Natural disasters
- ◉ Climate change
- ◉ Forests and biodiversity
- ◉ Land degradation and desertification
- ◉ Mountains
- ◉ Sustainable consumption and production
- ◉ Education
- ◉ Gender equality

Section V complete?

- ① What is missing?
- ① If anything, how can we add to this without adding to a menu of issues or a litany of unfulfilled promises?

Is section V really finalised?

Accelerating and
measuring progress

- ⦿ The Sustainable Development Goals

Means of
implementation

- ⦿ Finance
- ⦿ Science and technology
- ⦿ Capacity building
- ⦿ Trade
- ⦿ Registry/compendium of commitments

How do you contribute now?

- ⦿ Can you bring new issues to the document?
- ⦿ Only if you can make a case that the 'forgotten issue' has been prominently represented in either some of the outcome documents or the November 1, 2011 contributions
- ⦿ Have you allowed your expertise to reach governments?
- ⦿ Within the existing structure and issues listed there are enough tags to add an issue or two

What should major groups do now?

- ⦿ Listen to governments and identify your targets
- ⦿ In your statement to the plenary what will you emphasise –and do not present a litany of complaints, be constructive and suggest issues and language
- ⦿ When you propose or criticise an issue – do you have the means and interest to follow up this issue with strategic lobby efforts?

And a word of encouragement:

● “Optimism is the fuel of heroes, the enemy of despair and the creator of the future.”