

GHANA

Response to Questionnaire on SDGs

The Rio outcome document states that the SDGs should be limited in number, and at the same time focus on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development.

1. Please list a limited number, preferably between five and ten, of the important priority areas that must be addressed through the SDGs to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

- Increase access to modern energy services(lighting inclusive)
- Reduce poverty/hunger: Include targets for reducing food insecurity
- Increase percentage of local content in foreign direct investment : develop indicators for local content in .
- Corporate Social responsibilities
- Expand MDG 7 to include targets and indicators for natural resources conservation
- Increase of the share of manufacturing sectors in GDP. (setting targets in %)
- Develop a goal for the Transport and Roads sector: (availability of roads to rural farming areas. Target Density and motorability of roads to be increased in rural areas for easy accessibility and select indicators for this)
- Increase decent employment: employment rate used as a major macro economic indicator. (measures should be put in place to achieve labour statistics)
- Recycle wastes: increase waste collection and reuse and recovering. (Collection targets set in %)
- Develop goal and targets for green housing and architectural development

The SDGs “should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages. They should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, thus contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and serving as a driver for implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system as a whole. The development of these goals should not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals” (The Future We Want, paragraph 246).

2. How might the SDGs strive to balance the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development?

Integrate the MDGs, suitably modified/updated for post-2015, into a larger sustainable development framework

The SDGs must be “global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities” (The Future We Want, paragraph 247).

3. Based on your experience with MDGs or other existing goals, what would be the key use of SDGs for your country (select at most two)?

- a. Defining national policies
- b. Addressing key pressure leading to unsustainability.

4. How can “universally applicable” SDGs be made practically relevant for countries at different levels of development? (Please refer to your country’s situation as appropriate.)

- Countries in transition (CITs) should be supported to translate universally applicable SDGs into specific and appropriate national goals.

- Countries in less developed or developing countries should be supported to prioritize their own development goals and seek to deliver on them.

5. The SDGs are supposed to be “global in nature”. Should targets associated with those goals be:

SDGs should be common to all countries

The SDGs must be based on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, fully respect all the Rio Principles, build upon commitments already made, and contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields (The Future We Want, paragraph 246).

6. Which existing goals and targets (e.g., MDGs, goals/targets in Agenda 21, JPOI) do you think *should* be incorporated – perhaps in updated form – in a proposal for sustainable development goals?

Prioritize aspects of the Agenda 21 and MDG(s) and JPoI and base them on the goals identified set in question 1 above.

The SDGs “should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”. (The Future We Want, paragraph 246)

7. What specific steps can be taken to ensure that the SDGs are coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015?

- Consultations should be made at the global level
- Encourage working groups that consist developing countries
- Embed goals in specific UN agencies for implementation with synergies.(The UNGA should take steps and instruct agencies to make sure there is coordination, coherence and synergy amongst

themselves to support the achievement of these goals)

- Ensure that capitals are appropriately and actively represented in international discussions leading to the firm up of these goals after 2015.

“We recognize that progress towards the achievement of the goals needs to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development.” (The Future We Want, paragraph 250).

8. How should assessments of progress toward the achievement of the SDGs be carried out at the global level?

The Open Working Group to be constituted involving member states and major groups must as a first step meet to decide the parameters for assessment of progress. Submit these parameters to the High Level Forum that would replace the UNCSD for discussion and acceptance by all.

Subsequently let the Expert Working Group, on a yearly basis, assess progress on national, regional and global levels and present report to the High Level Forum. The High Level should hold back to back with the the experts to discuss the challenges that are encountered at every level of implementation. The plenary discussions must engage allUN system, member states, major groups etc

“The Future We Want” states that at the outset the Open Working Group will decide on its methods of work, “including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system” (para 248)

9. What measures should be taken to make the process of developing a proposal for SDGs inclusive and participatory? How should civil society and other relevant stakeholders be engaged?

Give all major groups a dedicated forum to come out with their own ideas and match these with those of member states. CSO often do not have sufficient expression when placed together with governments.

10. What principles should underpin the development of the SDGs? (the UN TT report, for example, recommended adding (i) reducing inequalities and (ii) promoting human rights (iii) ensuring sustainability);

The Rio principles of 1992 are still the most relevant guiding principles for sustainable development and may still underpin the development of the SDGs.

11. How should a new Global Partnership for Development be constructed within or around the SDGs?

A new global partnership for development can be constructed based on earlier commitments and agreements reached in earlier UN Summits, Conferences and other related international meetings. The way forward with the SDGs is the means of implementation for developing countries. Without doubt, bilateral efforts would be instrumental this time around because of the financial melt down in many developed countries.

12. Do you have any other observations, ideas or inputs you would like to offer to inform the initial work of the open working group on sustainable development goals?

Firm initial consultations are key and these must be comprehensive with the active participation of the capitals who are best placed to advise on many on-the- ground practicalities.

Submitted by

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