

UNITED NATIONS GOVERNANCE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

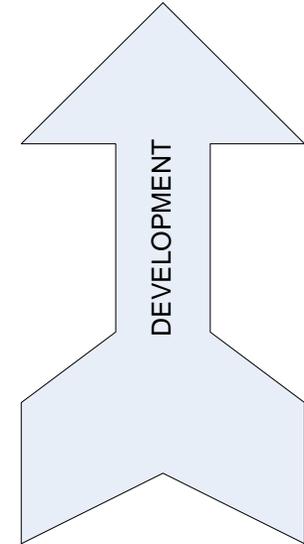
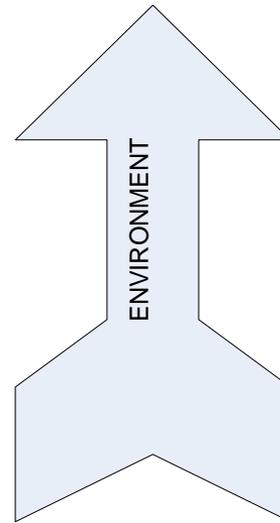
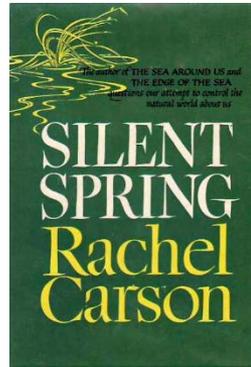
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PHASE

1948-1972

“Nature doesn’t operate in closed and separate compartments”

(Silent Spring, 1962)



CHARACTERISTICS

- Specific environmental goals begin to be championed by concerned citizens and policy makers, most commonly in the area of pollution abatement
- Rise in environmental legislation, creation of environmental institutions, and increase in activism
- Establishment of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) first global environmental organization (1948)

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PHASE

1972-1987

“The protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world; it is the urgent desire of the peoples of the whole world and the duty of all Governments” (Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 5 – 16 June 1972)



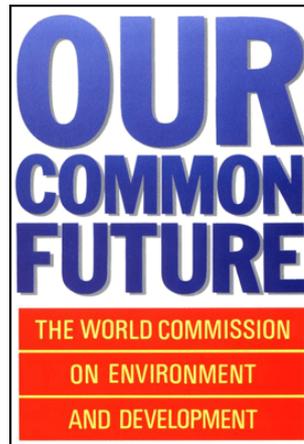
Secretary-General U Thant, Secretary-General of the Conference Maurice Strong and Chair of the Preparatory Committee Mr. Keith Johnson (Jamaica)

- “It is recommended that the Secretary-General take steps to ensure that international development assistance agencies, in cooperation with recipient Governments, intensify efforts to revise and broaden the criteria of development project analysis to incorporate environmental impact considerations” (Recommendations 63 of the Action Plan from the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment)
- Establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (1972)

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1987- 1992

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (UN World Commission on Environment and Development known as “Brundtland report” in 1987)



CHARACTERISTICS

The concept of 'needs', has been recognized in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PHASE

1992 - 2012

In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it. (Principle 4)

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible. (Principle 25)

Rio Declaration 1992 The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – “Earth Summit



CHARACTERISTICS

- Common and differentiated responsibilities, the precautionary principle, the sustainability assessment, sustainable development strategies, footprints, public/private participation, prior informed consent, corporate responsibility, and many others were brought up in Agenda 21 as well as role of Major groups
- National Sustainable Development Strategies
- Establishment of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (1993)
- Establishment of the three conventions: UNFCCC,, CBD (1993) and UNCCD (1994)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PHASE (cont.)

We assume a collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection – at local, national, regional and global levels (Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, 2002)



CHARACTERISTICS

- Three overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development:
 - poverty eradication
 - changing consumption and production patterns
 - protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development

(Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, 2002)

- Reform of the Commission on Sustainable Development
- National Sustainable Development Councils

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **CSD had a strong mandate:** (i) monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21; (ii) review progress in meeting the commitments contained in Agenda 21; (iii) consider progress made in implementing MEAs; (iv) make recommendations to the GA, through the ECOSOC
- **First 10 years:** good ministerial participation; good inter-agency support (IACSD); good/solid policy outcomes (forests, energy, oceans); relatively weak implementation
- **Second 10 years:** predominance of environment ministries/constituencies; weaker inter-agency support, reflecting declining political interest; fixed work programme & alternating review/policy years made CSD less attractive; lack of agreement at CSD-19 proximate cause of negative sentiment, view that CSD is ineffective



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION PHASE (2012 -)

We emphasize the need for an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development that should:

- be guided by the specific functions required and mandates involved;
- address the shortcomings of the current system;
- take into account all relevant implications;
- promote synergies and coherence; seek to avoid duplication and eliminate unnecessary overlaps within the UN system; and,
- reduce administrative burdens and build on existing arrangements
(Paragraph 79 of The Future We Want)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION PHASE (2012 -) (cont.)

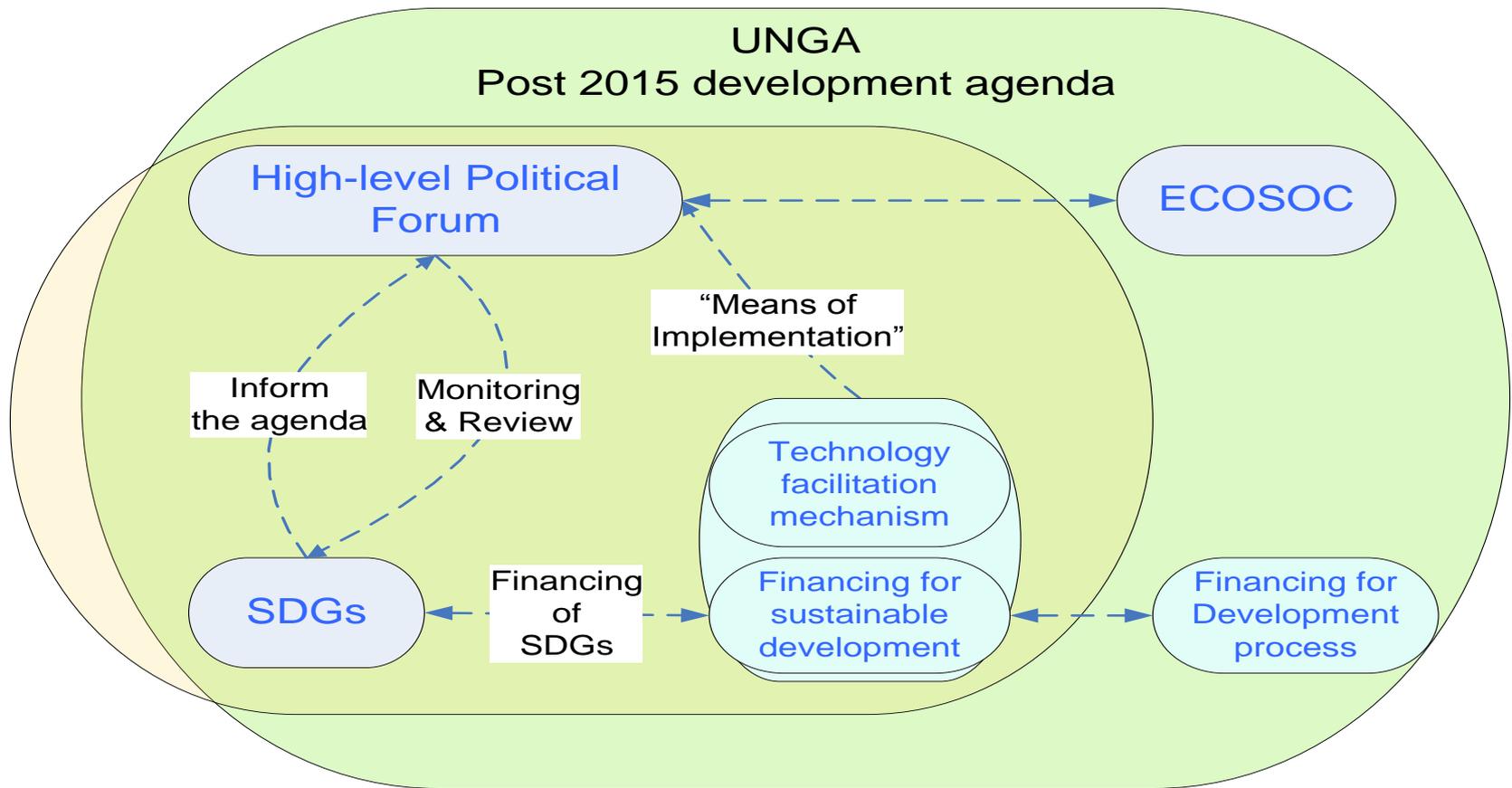
[...] We [...] reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by: promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living; fostering equitable social development and inclusion; and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports *inter alia* economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges (part of Para 4 of The Future We Want)



CHARACTERISTICS

- Integration of three dimensions of sustainable development and unification of development agenda within post-2015 development agenda with SDGs at its core
- Establishment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
- Establishment of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development
- Establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing
- Process to examine possible technology facilitation mechanism

LINKS BETWEEN RIO+20 FOLLOW-UP PROCESSES



Source: DSD/DESA

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Provide high-level political leadership and guidance for sustainable development while avoiding overlap and duplication;
- Implementation of a focused, dynamic agenda that can also consider emerging challenges;
- Agenda-setting with multiple sources of input through dialogue and stocktaking with governments, Major groups, and stakeholders;
- Enhance integration and coherence of the three dimensions of sustainable development at all levels and across global governance;
- Allow a variety of modes of participation by Major groups and other relevant stakeholders;
- Follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments “of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as well as the respective means of implementation;
- Strengthen the science-policy interface “by examining documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report.