

DEVELOP JOINT ADVOCACY STRATEGY TO LOBBY THE HLPF FOR ENHANCED STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A presentation by
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to Stakeholder Forum
September 20, 2013

Effective governance

- ▣ **Effective governance is at the core of coherence** (From Delivering as one – 2006)

Good governance

- ▣ “Good governance at the local, national and international levels is perhaps the single most important factor in promoting development and advancing the cause of peace”, Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the UN

**What are we lobbying
for?**

**What does enhanced
stakeholder engagement
mean?**

... a common approach?

- ▣ Can we agree on a common understanding of the issues at stake?
- ▣ And if so, can we agree on a common approach and strategy to influence these issues?

That depends

- ▣ On how we view,
understand and
interpret reality

... what is our reality today and tomorrow

- ▣ There is an urgency to understand a new generation of issues, and ways of coping with them by older organisations that are perhaps in denial about the changes confronting them. INTRAC has interviewed organisations that are clearly failing to see that unless they change and adapt to new circumstances their future may be of limited duration. (From CIVICUS yearbook on civil society, 2013)

The Rio Outcome Document, a paradigmatic document

- ▣ ... is a watershed document, and reflects a world that has changed dramatically and is still changing . This global change has taken place over the past twenty years, and few documents reflect this change better than the Rio Outcome Document.
- ▣ Agreed?

“The future we want”

- ▣ **With the agreement of The Rio Outcome Document, “the Future We Want,” the UN decided on and started 15 processes, of which the HLPF and post 2015 agenda are but two.**
- ▣ **They are all interlinked and we want to be part of them all**

The 15 processes

- ▣ The green economy process, § 56 -71
- ▣ The high level forum on SD, § 86
- ▣ Intergenerational solidarity, the ombudsperson for future generations, § 86
- ▣ Strengthening UNEP, § 88
- ▣ integration of the three dimensions of SD, § 93
- ▣ Outcome of Delivering as One Process, strengthening operational activities, § 95
- ▣ Sustainable Energy for All (SG initiative), § 129
- ▣ GA process on the maritime jurisdiction beyond national boundaries, conservation and resource use of marine resources, §161, 162
- ▣ Challenges facing Small Island States, § 180
- ▣ 10 Year Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production, § 226
- ▣ The Sustainable Development Goals - through to 2015 § 248,249
- ▣ Assess financing needs, § 255, 257
- ▣ Clean environmentally friendly easily adaptable and usable technologies, § 273
- ▣ The registry of commitments, § 283
- ▣ Sustainable agriculture - end hunger (Secretary General initiative), announced in Rio

The 15 Rio processes - and large parts of the document - address six broad areas -

- ▣ A deepening of the understanding of Sustainable Development and its three dimensions
- ▣ Financial and economic issues in general terms - the green economy debate, GDP+, the 10YFP on SCP and in more particular terms, financing the aforementioned processes
- ▣ Science based decisions, increased role for science
- ▣ Governance, enhanced roles for stakeholders, right to participate, set agendas for our future, access to information etc
- ▣ Multilateralism in general and the United Nations in particular
- ▣ And lastly, and to a lesser extent values, universality issues, anthropocentric or biocentric worldview

Major Groups and sustainable development processes

- ▣ 1992 was about major groups giving advice to governments and the multilateral system
- ▣ 2002 was about major groups and stakeholders being part of the implementation process
- ▣ 2012 was about major groups and stakeholders being part of the agenda-setting and decision-shaping processes

... and the future?

- ▣ **What will 2013 to 2022 be like in terms of stakeholder engagement?**

Understanding the HLPF is imperative

**- In other words, what are
the instrument(s) with
which we can work?**

The HLPF has been established

- ▣ **On July 9, 2013, during its 91st Plenary Meeting, (UNGA), in resolution 67/290 (A/67/L.72) formally adopted by consensus the format and the organizational aspects of the high level political forum (HLPF).**

The HLPF and its consequences

- ▣ With ten introductory and thirty operative paragraphs, the resolution on HLPF stakes out the direction of global sustainable development policies for the next twenty years.
- ▣ Unless it should be subjected to serious revisions, this construct will heavily influence SD policies until 2032 - at Rio plus 40 (or Stockholm plus 60),
- ▣ It is thought to be the most important intergovernmental mechanism in the follow-up to the Rio Summit; it will be the home of the SDGs

The HLPF is tasked with

- ▣ Providing leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development,
- ▣ Identifying emerging issues, reviewing progress in the implementation of related commitments and continually enhancing integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental
- ▣ In addition, every four years the HLPF will be held under the auspices of the GA at the level of Heads of State and Governments for two days, “resulting in a concise negotiated political declaration to be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration”

A heavy, but influential agenda

- ▣ If we add up all identified agenda points in the document, we arrive at 25 – or 29 if we allow each of the five UN regions to come in with only one agenda item
- ▣ Added to all this, is the discussion on sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- ▣ We want to be actively involved in these agenda points

The HLPF

- ▣ Is high level
- ▣ Is open, transparent, interactive, innovative, agenda setting, charged with reviews
- ▣ Increasingly science based decisions
- ▣ Integrate the three dimensions of SD
- ▣ Will be the home of the SDGs
- ▣ Will decide the post 2015 follow-up agenda
- ▣ Will deal with SD issues in a universal context

Major Groups and civil society in the HLPF

- ▣ Have been given a number of privileges and rights which are now inscribed into the HLPF mandate and procedure
- ▣ These rights will seek their operative modalities over the next six months to two years
- ▣ We must be actively involved in the interpretation and development of these modalities

Modalities and strengths

- ▣ If weak modalities are developed, we will be faced with a weak and nonsensical institution.
- ▣ Now is the time to strengthen this institution

Which privileges are given MGs and civil society?

- ▣ Major Groups and relevant stakeholders are referred to in 7 paragraphs:
- ▣ Paragraphs 8c; 13; 14; 15; 16; 22 and 24.

Paragraph 15 is the key

While retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum, major groups, other relevant stakeholders will be allowed:

- (a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;
- (b) To have access to all official information and documents;
- (c) To intervene in official meetings;
- (d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
- (e) To make recommendations;
- (f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat of the United Nations;

Paragraphs 8, 13 & 14

- 8** - *The forum, under the auspices of ECOSOC will conduct regular reviews ... that:*
- (c) Will provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders;
 - ▣ **13** ... regional commissions and regional meetings will involve Major Groups
 - ▣ **14** ... the forum will be open to the major groups, other relevant stakeholders building on ... CSD

Agenda setting, paragraph 22

“Requests the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to coordinate with the Bureau of the Council and with the bureaux of the relevant committees of the General Assembly to organize the activities of the forum so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;”

How do we understand and agree on ...

- ▣ Agenda setting
- ▣ Intervene in the deliberations
- ▣ Participate in review processes
- ▣ Understand and interpret Universality
- ▣ Understand the integration of the three dimensions of SD
- ▣ Understand the major groups
- ▣ Understand other stakeholders

There are timelines

- ▣ Between now and February/March awaiting the zero draft on SDGs
- ▣ Until 2015 and the high level meeting on the SDGs (paragraph 28)
- ▣ Until 2016, when reviews will start in earnest (paragraph 8)
- ▣ Until 2018, when a possible revisit of the HLPF structure and mandate is possible (paragraph 29)

A unique opportunity with a unique institution

- ▣ **The HLPF is a unique institution with immense opportunities for stakeholder involvement to influence the future:**
 - ▣ **sustainable development agenda**
 - ▣ **SDG agenda**
 - ▣ **Governance agenda**

Stakeholders are faced with a few challenges

- ▣ agree on a common strategy to develop governance modalities within the HLPF
- ▣ Stay involved in the process on a continuity basis and understand the technicalities of the UN system
- ▣ Share information and show willingness to compromise

And finally ...

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

Thank you for your attention

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