

Intervención conjunta Perú-México-Colombia-Guatemala

VI reunión del OWG

Última sesión del viernes 13 de diciembre de 2013, 5.00pm.

First of all, we want to thank both co-chairs for their leadership and vision in guiding this Group. We have delved deeply into difficult and critical issues and are better prepared for the task ahead. You will count with our full support in the months ahead.

Secondly we want to underline that it is our understanding that the mandate and responsibility of this Group is to deliver concrete recommendations on a goal framework by September 2014. This mandate comes from Rio and the Rio+20 outcome document **and the principles it contains**, is the foundation of our work. Therefore we do not need to renegotiate Rio, but to reference it clearly and succinctly as the context of the goal framework.

We would ask everyone in this room to confirm whether their understanding is the same: that we want to arrive at a concrete, limited number of goals and targets by next September that we can recommend to the UNGA. We might not have full consensus on all issues, and we need to provide for different levels of agreement commensurate with the political maturity of different issues. We will have time later to continue discussions where needed.

Co-chairs and colleagues,

We talk about a transformative agenda. The transformation has to start now, here in this Group, in the way we approach the very definition of this agenda.

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE DOING SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BY UN MEMBER STATES: defining a new goal framework. This is already a revolution.

There are 3 reasons for this

FIRST

→ We are developing **OBJETIVES** not text for a resolution

What does it mean...." to develop **OBJETIVES**"?

- **Objectives and targets** are about delivering action on the ground, about implementation
- **Objectives and targets** help focus and guide public policy and investments at national level
- **Objectives and targets** therefore need to be measured. This each target will have a cost in terms of measuring. We need to engage our statisticians to tell us what is the best way to frame targets so that they are easier and less costly to measure.

SECOND

The good news is that on about 60-80% of the agenda, there is already full consensus.

- For example, food security, employment, education, energy access, quality health, protection of water sources, are issues that we all agree are important

→ So this is the second reason why this agenda could be different than anything we have done in decades in the UN: **it is not focused on the North-South Divide. It is focused on our common humanity.**

THIRD

Therefore, and this is the third ongoing revolution that we can already take up, there is no need to approach this as a traditional negotiation.

- We cannot negotiate ourselves into a sensible, well-structured and USEFUL goal framework. We need to talk amongst ourselves to deliver this. We need substantive discussions: about how to best frame an issue (for example on education for productivity or reducing maternal mortality)
- We need to have our statisticians and experts tell us what is the best way to frame each target. There are many ways of approaching the same issue. For example, generation of jobs or agricultural productivity. For example, we may need to work in smaller groups to discuss specific issues more substantively.

Therefore, and finally,

The question we need to ask ourselves all the time is: **will this new goal framework be useful and practical for my ministries, my communities, my local authorities, my private sector?**

If it is not, we will have missed a truly historic opportunity to make sustainable development happen.

We have talked for 4 decades about sustainable development. We have made some progress but by all counts, very insufficient.

Discussions at the UN will always be political. But they can be informed discussions. And they should not be politicized. Our responsibility and the opportunity to get it right are too big

Let us never forget in the coming months that we are negotiating a METRIC, not a resolution. METRICS matter. GDP changed how we view the world and the relation between countries. MDGs changed how we approach poverty. Working together, guided by a sense of common humanity, that the SDGs enable a true revolution.

We reiterate our full support to you both, co-chairs, in guiding us forward to deliver on our unique task