



UN POST-2015 INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS SIDE-EVENT

CONNECTING THE DOTS IN 2015: HOW TO ACHIEVE GREATER COHERENCE BETWEEN INTERRELATED POLICY PROCESSES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2015/ TIME: 1:15PM-2:30PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 13

UNHQ CONFERENCE BUILDING, NEW YORK



Summary

A number of international policy processes culminate this year, offering a chance to integrate disaster risk reduction, climate change policy and poverty reduction more closely. Concentrated and ambitious action in all these processes is needed to achieve agreements that reconcile two interrelated objectives: to advance development in a way that decouples growth from emissions and makes societies more resilient; and to take the bold climate actions needed to safeguard for future generations.

Climate Action Network, WEDO, CARE and IFP hosted a panel discussion to advance discussions on how the Post-2015, Disaster Risk Reduction and UNFCCC process can add up to achieve the ambition we need to address climate change and how to overcome any perceived dichotomy between climate action and development.

This event was moderated by **Eleanor Blomstrom**, Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO).

The panel featured the following experts on UN climate change policy processes including:

1. Maryam Niamir-Fuller

*Special Advisor to the Executive Director, Post-2015 and SDGs
UNEP*

2. Siddharth Pathak

*International Policy Coordinator
Climate Action Network*

3. Alvin K. Leong

*Senior Researcher
Pace University*

4. Tonya Rawe

*Senior Policy Advisor for Policy and Research
CARE*

5. Joe Curtin

*Senior Research Fellow
IIEA*

6. David Elkaim

*Political Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs France*

Eleanor Blomstrom opened the event by highlighting some key points in relation to climate change, gender equality and the key processes on sustainable development (SD). Climate Change is the most overarching issue today and ensuring gender equality is a must alongside fighting climatic change. She affirms that, it is impossible to achieve success in current pathway and questions if it is enough to have a benchmark of warming under 2C and highlights that there is a lot of work to be done in this regard. Globally, people are concerned about 4C warming, which will bring about incredible impacts such as intensity of tropical storms, impacts on coastal cities among several others. She also emphasized the importance of the year 2015, which brings many opportunities in terms of many several different UN processes culminating to make a better future. The three main processes for this year in this regard are the Disaster risk reduction framework process which ended in March, the Post-2015 Development Agenda Process with its Summit in September and the UNFCCC Process with is supposed to lead to a new agreement in December.

Maryam Niamir Fuller laid out some of the areas of convergence between the three different processes and also made references to the Finance for Development Process. She highlighted the **importance of mutual reinforcement and mutual benefits of these processes** and linked specific issues of the post-2015 and DRR agenda to the goals of the UNFCCC process. “**Mutual reinforcement of policies, technologies, finance and safeguards are important concepts in understanding and implementing the SDGs and its targets**”.

Siddharth Pathak raised the **importance of political will** in the context of SDGs and the other policy processes. Furthermore, he explained how the implementation of the SDGs would be key to achieve ambition. According to Siddharth, the most important point in these processes is to show that **climate change and development go hand in hand**.

Alvin K. Leong highlighted that **there is no formal process for convergence between SDGs and UNFCCC**. But that there are dots available for connections and authority is found in Article 4 and Article 7 of the Convention and he highlights that there is a **need of political will to activate these dots**.

Tonya Rawe shed light on the connection between SDGs and sustainable agriculture. In order for the UNFCCC to be a **true complement** to the SDGS –to contribute its fair share to tackling hunger and malnutrition and promoting sustainable development, the **agreement** to be finalized in Paris must **deliver on several things, first of all on finance and mitigation ambition**.

Joe Curtin gave an interesting perspective on **data and transparency, strengthening of quantification, the ambition gap between the processes and asks the question of the role of the HLPF? He highlights the rules for follow-up and review of the SDGSs can**

set a lot of good precedence for the UNFCCC, specifically on not mitigation related issues as adaptation, finance and equity.

David Elkaim talked about the importance of FFD and how the meetings in Addis Ababa will identify and promote synergies. He says that **development policies in the SDGs are universal and eliminates the divide between north and south, promoting a shared vision.** Interactions are twofold. The good part is that SD and adaptation policies can help reduce GHG emissions while the bad part if we do not promote them we have a huge problem.