Nairobi, 13 June 2013

Conference Report

The Post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals – What roadmap beyond the Millennium Development Goals and Rio+20?

Nairobi, 6 – 7 June 2013

Convened by:
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Kenya Office
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Conference Report:
Elisabeth Bollrich (FES)

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1   Background

This two-day forum jointly organized by UNEP and FES brought together stakeholders representing civil society, trade unions and think tanks from all sub-regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. The meeting partly re-convened participants from two previous conferences convened by UNEP and FES which took place in 2012 in Nairobi: the Rio+20 Preparatory Conference of African Civil Society Organisations and Trade Unions, 29-30 March 2012, and the Post-Rio+20 Meeting of African Civil Society and Trade Unions, 19-20 November 2012.

The forum provided an opportunity for stakeholders to voice their perspectives on the post-2015 development framework, and to ensure that their position will be well reflected in the final document presented to the UN General Assembly in September 2013. The group therefore reviewed the report on the post-2015 development agenda "A New Global Partnership – Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development" drafted by the UN High-level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons and submitted to the Secretary-General on 30 May 2013. In addition, ways to organize in the SDGs formulation process were discussed. The outcome document of this meeting can be found in the Annex.

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3   Conference Report

3.1   Session 1: What key priorities for Africa in the post-2015 development agenda?

1. The post-2015 development agenda process and framework: George Ndungu, African Youth Working Group on Post-2015 Agenda
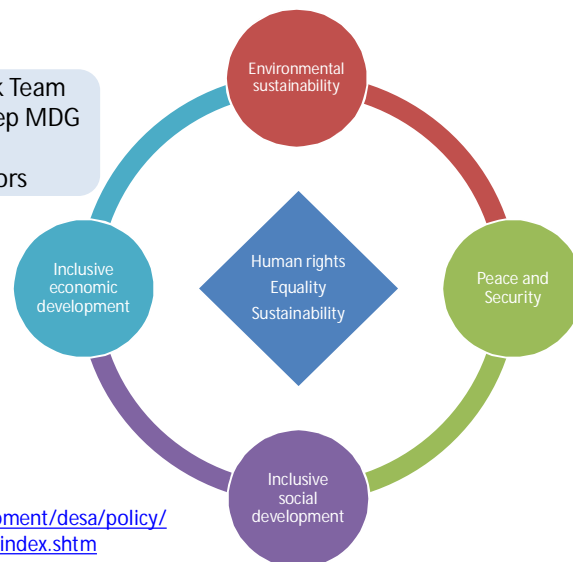

UN TASK TEAM ON POST-2015 (UN TT)

Representatives of over 60 UN entities and international organisations, to coordinate the system and propose a unified vision

To support Member States & provide analysis and recommendations on monitoring and accountability, and global partnerships

Report "Realizing the Future We Want for All" submitted to UN Secretary-General in June 2012

UN System Task Team proposes to keep MDG format: Goals, targets, indicators

un.org/en/development/desa/policy/
untaskteam_undf/index.shtm

Environmental sustainability

Peace and Security

Inclusive social development

Inclusive economic development

Human rights
Equality
Sustainability

Post-2015 Process

- Mandates
  - Defined at MDG Summit 2010 & Rio+20 Conference 2012
  - Open and inclusive consultative process

- Leadership
  - Member States: prerogative to deliver framework
  - UN Secretary-General: to present vision to General Assembly in September 2013 building upon UN system's work and consultation processes

HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON POST-2015 (HLP)

Composed of 27 eminent persons, to advise the UN Secretary-General on a ambitious yet achievable development agenda post-2015

Work informed by UN Task Team report, research, outcomes of major processes and civil society outreach

It will submit a report to the UN Secretary-General by 31 May 2013

hlp2015.projektserver.org

OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SDGs (OWG)

30 seats composed of 70 representatives nominated by Member States

Tasked to develop a proposal for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in coherence with Post-2015 UN development agenda

It will submit a report, to the 68th session of the General Assembly (Sept2013–Sept2014)

UNDG THEMATIC CONSULTATIONS

Growth & Employment

Energy

Population Dynamics

Education

Inequalities

Water

Food Security & Nutrition

Governance

Conflict & Fragility

Health

Environmental Sustainability

UN DEVELOPMENT GROUP:
OPEN AND INCLUSIVE GLOBAL CONSULTATIONS

Post-2015 development agenda

IS IT MORE INCLUSIVE?
IS IT MORE EQUITABLE?
IS IT SUSTAINABLE?

UNDG Initiative based on 3 pillars of work:

1. National consultations:	2. Thematic consultations:	3. Global Outreach:
Lead by the UN Resident Coordinators and building on on-going consultations, they will feed into the post-2015 formal process.	with academia, media, private sector, employers, trade unions, civil society, and decision makers on current central challenges to development .	Using web, social media, mobile telephony and other means to allow open interaction and information exchange among a range of stakeholders.

GLOBAL OUTREACH

worldwewant2015.org

THE WORLD
WE WANT
2015

MY

myworld2015.org

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

unsdsn.org

Beyond2015

beyond2015.org

Post-2015 Framework
Mandated by 2010 MDG Summit

First meeting of High-level Panel

UNSG submits report to UNGA

High-level Panel established

Report submitted to SG

UNDG 1st report

UNDG 2nd report

UNDG next steps

| 31 July 2012 | Sep 2012 | Spring 2013 | Sep 2013 | Sep 2014 |
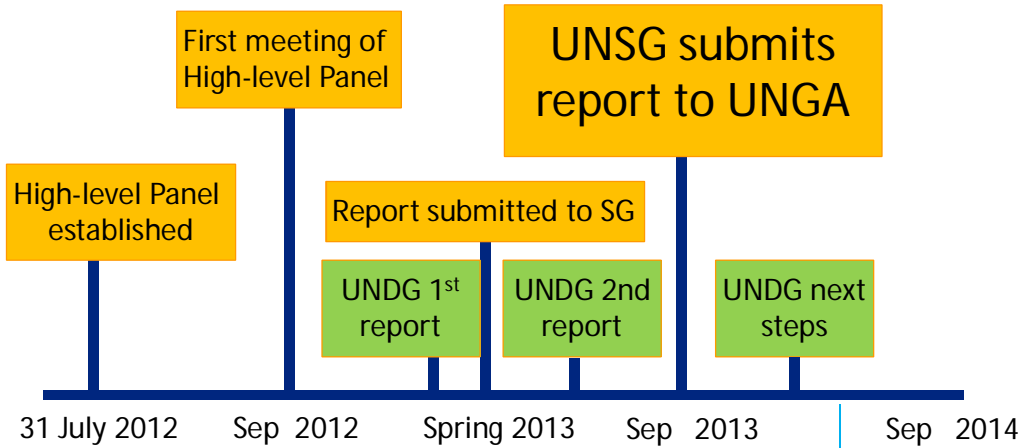
SDG Process
Mandated by Rio+20 Outcome Doc

Working Group on SDG established

Working Group report submitted to UNGA
(between Sep 2013 and Sep2014)

Key messages from the discussion:

Among the various work areas presented, the main concern of the African Youth Working Group on the Post-2015 Agenda is: (a) employment and decent jobs, and (b) education.

Children and Youth are one of the nine 'Major Groups' as defined by the Agenda 21. The government of Kenya defines youth as all citizens between the age of 18 and 35. The UN defines youth as between the age of 15 and 22. Children are engaged in various fora and express their views vividly.

With regard to the mobilisation and instrumentalisation of youth in violent conflict, George Ndungu expressed that there is a need for more awareness raising activities and peace building. Later it was added that due to a lack of resources, organisations of African youth are not able to attend all meetings and have to make use of other fora to influence the agenda, such as the Kenyan member of the OWG.

With regard to MDG 8, the question was raised: "What type of partnership do we want and how different is it from MDG 8?". Firstly, more cooperation is needed, especially regional. Secondly, MDG 8 focused on external aid, while the HLP report focuses on internal sources of funding instead.

The questions whether civil society managed to influence the post-2015 process so far, and whether CSOs integrated marginalised groups into the process or rather involved the usual suspects were answered positively. Some issues raised in the HLP report were brought up by the African Youth Working Group on the Post-2015 Agenda. New platforms for engagement such as mobile phone applications are used to spread participation.

2. Post-2015 Development Agenda – Building the African Position: Fatou Ndoye, UNEP, Major groups and Stakeholders Branch, Division of Regional Cooperation

Process in Africa

• Lead by AUC, UN ECA, AfDB, UNDP and UNDG

Consultations:

• Post 2015 national consultations

• Sub regional consultations:
  ▫ Mombasa (Sept 2012)
  ▫ Dakar (Dec 2012)

• Regional consultations:
  ▫ Hammamet (March 2013)
  ▫ Joint Conference of Ministers on the African Common Position , Abidjan (March 2013)

Rationale for an African position:

• Meeting MDGs remains challenging in many African countries due to many factors: high unemployment, low gender parity, climate change impact, unsustainable environmental management, low access to education and health, food security, security
• African needs and priorities to be well reflected into the post 2015 development agenda
• African voice to be heard

The process is led by AUC, UN ECA, AfDB, UNDP and UNDG, and quite a number of Post-2015 national consultations have been undertaken with the UN Country Teams support.

The consultations focused on 11 thematic areas:

• Conflict and Fragility,
• Education,
• Environmental Sustainability,
• Governance,
• Growth and employment,
• Health,
• Hunger, food and nutrition security,
• Inequalities,
• Population Dynamics,
• Energy,
• Water;
• but also on the MGD review – progress to date, challenges and lessons learnt.

The African position was received by the AU Summit as a "draft" document, for further review by the High Level Committee (Heads of State and Government) chaired by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf that was established by the AU Assembly, in view of its formal adoption in January 2014 (hopefully). This committee can invite/request further inputs – we do not know yet.

This African position will feed into the UN general Assembly to be held in September 2013 in NY, and in the onward processes in 2014.

Civil society participation in the consultations was quite strong – both in terms of numbers, but also in influencing the discussions.

Major issues emerging from the consultations

- Food security
- Conflicts and fragility
- Education and health services
- Human rights
- Poverty and inequalities
- Inclusive economic growth, social protection for the vulnerable, youth employment, and decent jobs
- Women empowerment
- Infrastructure, agricultural transformation, economic diversification
- Strengthening economic governance
- Sustainable development and response to climate change

Recommendations emerging from the consultations

- Reflect regional initiatives and priorities

- Demand-driven and respond to aspirations

- Focus on:
  - structural transformation and inclusive growth;
  - capacity development and technological innovation ; and
  - human development

The major issues arising from the various consultations (in no particular order of importance):

- Enhancing food security
- Preventing and managing conflicts and fragility
- Promoting access to quality and affordable education and health services
- Accelerating rapid reduction in poverty and inequalities
- Inclusive economic growth: promoting sustainable livelihood and social protection for the vulnerable, addressing youth development, creating decent job opportunities
- Increasing women empowerment and gender equality
- Investing in infrastructure, agricultural transformation and economic diversification
- Good governance and human rights
- Strengthening economic governance
- Ensuring sustainable development and adequate response to climate change

The main conclusions of the MDGs review, including lessons learnt from implementation, and key recommendations from the consultations were that:

- The continent continues to make steady progress on most of the goals although there some areas of concern
- Africa's performance on the MDGs varies across and within countries
- Africa's aggregate performance on the MDGs masks wide income, gender and spatial inequalities in accessing social services
- The Post 2015 Development Agenda must be demand-driven and reflect emerging priorities and aspirations
- The Post 2015 Development Agenda must take into account development enablers as well as outcomes
- The Post 2015 Development Agenda must focus on structural transformation and inclusive growth; capacity development and technological innovation; and human development as the issues are critical to Africa's development
- There is need to be strategic in the choice of enablers, results and indicators to be included in the framework
- The Agenda must reflect regional initiatives and priorities such as NEPAD, African Peer Review Mechanism and Rio+20 outcomes
- ECA and its partners should take into account

other on-going post 2015 processes to ensure coherence and relevance to the global process

- MDG-7 is lagging behind the other ones due to several reasons: unsustainable environment practices, lack and/or weak of integration of Environmental sustainability and CC issues into national plans and strategies, weak institutional capacities, very limited human and financial resources.

- The issue of lack of reliable data for proper monitoring and anticipation especially for environmental and weather trends in African countries has been highlighted. Therefore data collection and early assessments should be major component in the formulation of the post 2015 development agenda in order to define measurable and realistic indicators taking into consideration African specificity and needs.

The African position focuses on four key components:

Structural Economic Transformation and Inclusive Growth

- Inclusive sustainable growth
- Agriculture food security and nutrition
- Inclusive green growth
- Industrialization and value addition
- Infrastructure and development

Innovation, Technology Transfer and Research and Development

- Enhance technological capacities

Human Development

- Eradication of poverty
- Education and human capital development
- Universal and equitable access to quality health care
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Population dynamics: Realizing Africa's demographic dividend
- Water resource management
- Disaster risk reduction
- Access to shelter

Financing and Partnerships

- Building a wide partnership and ensuring sustained and secured financial recourses

Focus of African Common Position

- Structural Economic Transformation and Inclusive Growth
- Innovation, Technology Transfer and Research and Development
- Human Development
- Finance and Partnerships

Way forward

- Further development of the African position

- Technical working group to translate African priorities for Post 2015 Agenda into goals, targets and specific indicators for inclusion in the SDGs process

- Adoption of the African Common Position at AU Summit in January 2014

- Beyond 2015- reaching an agreement and implementing a new development agenda

- Engagement and ownership on CSOs

The way forward incudes one milestone:
- The adoption of the African Common Position at AU Summit in January 2014, with inputs from the presentation of the preliminary African position at the GA in September 2013

Meanwhile,
- The Commission to continue to engage member states incl. Permanent Representative Committee in Addis and New York for the further development of the African position, in collaboration with RECs and relevant stakeholders
- AU, NEPAD, ECA, AfDB, UNDP, UNDP and UNFPA and other organizations working on the social domain to set up a technical working group to translate African priorities for Post 2015 Agenda into goals, targets and specific indicators for inclusion in the SDGs process
- Countries to provide further inputs towards the Post 2015 Development Agenda

All this will have to be done building on the lessons learnt in the African preparatory process for Rio+20: building on the momentum of Rio+20 achievements, to negotiate, leverage more impact for the African position and address the remaining challenges, mainly:
- Linking Post 2015 national consultations and SDG processes at regional and global level: convergence
- Build on the MDG implementation process
- SDGs versus MDG+
- Sustain the African common Position and other Regions
- Learning on Rio +20 preparation process in African
- Harmonization and building on different initiatives by so many actors in the region
- Engagement and ownership on CSOs

Key messages from the discussion:

The possibility for influencing the African post-2015 development agenda process via national consultations is now, since a milestone will be the adoption of the African position at the AU Summit in January 2014. The question was raised why the common position was not adopted at the Summit in May 2013, after all consultations have been taken place and the document has been finalised. The participants are concerned that more parts of the document will be watered down during negotiations in the meantime. They highlighted the lack of agreement on a common African position as a challenge. Participants asked why UN agencies have the mandate to develop the African position and pointed to the lack of ownership. They recommended bringing back Africa-specific phenomena on the agenda.

There is a need for more involvement of major groups of stakeholders in developing the African position on the post-2015 agenda. UNEP stressed that UN agencies facilitate the process. Entry points for action during the next six month are the AU High-level Committee and the technical working group (see ppt slides above). In addition, the SDGs process is still going on, with a GA session looking at the OWG's proposal on SDGs in September this year. The intergovernmental OWG offers opportunities to make voices heard. Upcoming sessions (e.g. 17-19 June 2013) will focus on issues such as employment and decent work, social protection, youth, education, and culture. Besides providing input to thematic consultation, civil society engagement on the overall SDGs agenda is possible via the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS):

Civil Society Consultation on four post-2015 reports (UNDG, UNGC, SDSN, HLP): http://www.worldwewant2015.org/nglsconsultation. Register online to receive critical information.

The component of governance and transparency was expected to be part of but was left out from the African position. It was explained that these are cross-cutting issues at the core of the agenda, since they provide the enabling environment for transformation and the successful achievement of any goal. However, participants voiced their concern that cross-cutting issues such as citizen participation and human rights are not appearing as important as enablers as if they were a goal in itself.

The scientific and technological community is engaged as one of the nine 'Major Groups'. Scientists deliver input for developing the post-2015 development agenda, indeed. Yet, the lack of reliable data is a major concern. The latter also impedes the tracking process.

Cultural sensitivity and social orientation, e.g. in the context of women empowerment (access to land, access to markets), have to be considered, as this might be a major impediment to achieving goals. Certain mechanisms allow for the participation of marginalised groups in decision-making and empowerment, such as participatory budgeting which is frequently used in parts of Brazil and successfully promoted local participation.

Who is responsible for technology transfer? It was agreed that more South-South cooperation is needed and focus should be laid on the local context in order to spur African innovations. Domestic resource mobilisation could play a key role in reducing dependency on developed countries providing solutions for African problems.

With regard to access of information, the lack of reliable data and lack of data collection systems were listed as major problems which also negatively affect access to justice in environmental matters. Conventions which include specific access to justice and legal protection issues require national legislation, yet necessary provisions are not in place. UNEP supports the participation of stakeholders in access to information and access to justice in environmental matters.

The lack of policy coherence (e.g. agricultural policy and trade regimes) was also stated as having a negative impact on development.

Finally, there is the need for capacity development at government level.

3.2 Session 2: Influencing the SDGs process

1. The Open Working Group of the General Assembly on SDGs: Alexander Juras, UNEP, Major groups and Stakeholders Branch, Division of Regional Cooperation

History

- 248. We resolve to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on **sustainable development goals** that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. An **open working group** shall be constituted no later than at the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly and shall comprise 30 representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographic representation. At the outset, this 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** in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. It will submit a report, to the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action. (The Future We Want)

Rio Principle 10:
"Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate indecision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided."

History II

- Rio + 20: Agreement by Member States to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Limited in number, aspirational and easy to communicate
- Address in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015

- A 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly to prepare a proposal on the SDGs, established on 22nd of January 2013 by decision 67/555
- Most of the seats in the OWG are shared by several countries
- Modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience (The Future we want)

Members

African Group
Algeria / Egypt / Morocco / Tunisia
Ghana
Benin
Kenya
United Republic of Tanzania
Congo
Zambia/Zimbabwe

Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)
Colombia / Guatemala
Bahamas / Barbados
Guyana/Haiti/Trinidad and Tobago
Mexico / Peru
Brazil / Nicaragua
Argentina / Bolivia (Plurinational State of) / Ecuador

Asia-Pacific Group
Nauru / Palau / Papua New Guinea
Bhutan / Thailand / Viet Nam
India / Pakistan / Sri Lanka
China / Indonesia / Kazakhstan
Cyprus / Singapore / United Arab Emirates
Bangladesh / Republic of Korea / Saudi Arabia
Iran (Islamic Republic of) / Japan / Nepal

Western European and Others Group (WEOG)
Australia/Netherlands/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Canada / Israel / United States of America
Denmark / Ireland / Norway
France / Germany / Switzerland
Italy / Spain / Turkey

- Non-binding "Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters"
- Adopted by UNEP's Governing Council in 2010
- Purpose:
- To provide general guidance to States (mainly developing countries) to implement Principle 10 within the framework of their national legislation and processes.
- Assist countries in filling possible gaps in their respective legal norms and regulations; implementation
- contribute to good governance in key thematic areas (e.g. Climate Change, Green Economy)
- Since 2010, some progress in applying the Bali Guidelines at national level, no comprehensive overview available
- Progress in LAC, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria (in particular AI), China
- UNITAR Programme to Support Principle 10 Implementation (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mali).

Members II

Eastern European Group
Hungary
Belarus / Serbia
Bulgaria / Croatia
Montenegro / Slovenia
Poland / Romania

Chairpersons: Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary
                          Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya

UN System Technical Support Team (TST) consists of over 40 UN entities and works under the umbrella of UN System Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda.

Co-chairs: UN-DESA and UNDP

Post 2015 and SDGs Timeline
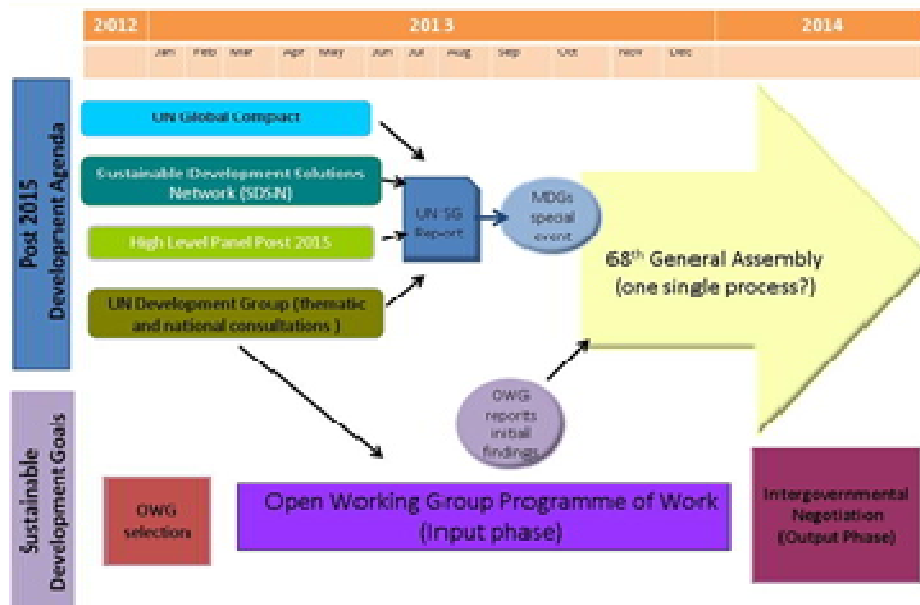
Programme of Work 2013-2014

First session: 14-15 March, 2013

Second session; 17-19 April, 2013: Conceptualizing the SDGs, Poverty eradication

Third session; 22-24 May, 2013 : Food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought, Water and sanitation

Fourth session; 17-19 June, 2013 : Employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture, Health, population dynamics

Fifth session; 25-27 November, 2013: Sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability), infrastructure development and industrialization, Energy

Programme of Work 2013-2014/II

Sixth session; 9-13 December, 2013: Means of implementation(science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building); Global partnership for achieving sustainable development, Needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries, Human rights, the right to development, global governance

Seventh session; 6-10 January, 2014: Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport, Sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste), Climate change and disaster risk reduction

Eight session; 3-7 February, 2014: Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity, Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment, Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance

Civil Society Participation

- A workspace area has been set up as an open and inclusive space for registered Major Groups to develop common positions on the development of the Sustainable Development Goals:
http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1565

- Submission of documents, positions papers, articles etc. that relates to the development of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Contributions will be synthesized by the Major Groups Organizing partners and shared with the Open Working Group tasked with developing the development of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Participation in OWG meetings as observer

- The OWG is expected to prepare a report on input and recommendations from stakeholders to be discussed at the General Assembly in September 2013. Detail on its content is not yet known.

- National Capacity Development Projects
- Development of National Profiles and Action Plans through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder processes
- Countries commit themselves to develop relevant national legislation
- Practical/hands on training on priority topics
- International knowledge exchange (e.g. Aarhus experience)
- Lessons Learned from National Principle 10 Capacity Development Projects:
- Significant interest by Governments
- Reveals that Principle 10 implementation needs capacity in civil society and Government
- Civil society actively participated in Government coordinated processes (some 600 stakeholders in 8 countries)

Organising Parnters

- Nine Major Groups, identified in Agenda 21 in 1992, are called major group sectors and include: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and technological Community, Farmers

- Key major groups' networks are invited by the CSD Bureau to form a facilitating group called "organizing partners", which coordinates the preparations and assists the Secretariat in generating and guiding the engagement of stakeholders for each major group sector.

- List of Organising Partners under:
  http://www.sustainabledevelopment2015.org/index.php/mg-organising-partners
  http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/orgpartners.html

CONTACT AND INFORMATION

UNEP:
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Fatou.Ndoye@unep.org

Resources:
http://www.unep.org/civil-society
http://www.sustainabledevelopment2015.org
http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org
http://www.beyond2015.org
http://www.ngosbeyond2014.org
http://www.stakeholderforum.org
http://www.beyond2015.org
http://www.worldwewant2015.org

- Processes created opportunity for Governments to cooperate with civil society to prepare situation analysis and set priorities
- Bali Guidelines helpful in creating benchmarks for national capacity development (not available at the time)
- UNITAR currently revising methodology within framework of UNEP/UNITAR collaboration (input from countries welcome)
- 88h, Rio Outcome (h) Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society.
- Para 7: Insti. Development Decision: 7. Decides that the governing body will ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and will explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, inter alia by:
- (a) Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission of Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;
- (b) Establishing by 2014 mechanisms and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice;
- (c) Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision making process.
- Para 17: Decides to enhance transparency and openness in its work and in this regard requests the ED to establish a written access to information policy.

Is there an SDGs specific African Process?

An extract from Google search here below

•As a follow-up to the Rio+20 outcomes, the United Nations economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) organized the Africa Regional implementation meeting (Africa-RIM) which was held from 19 to 21 November 2012, to deliberate on the main outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa. On the SDGs, the Africa RIM reaffirmed the principles that these goals should be based on an identified broad priority areas for Africa. Furthermore, the RIM called on the international community to provide Africa with adequate support to enable the region establish and implement an effective, broad-based bottom-up consultative process to flesh out goals, indicators and targets that should underpin the SDGs.

•Against this backdrop, the United Nations Economic Community for Africa (UNECA) engaged the services of a Consultant to produce a well-informed analytical Report on Sustainable Development Goals for the West Africa sub-region as one of five reports commissioned to prepare African countries to effectively engage in the global SDG process and ensure that the goals to be agreed upon are well aligned with Africa's sustainable development priorities. http://www.uneca.org/rio20/pages/follow-rio20-africa

Challenge of generating Content

- The 'contextual frame' of engagement- The tendency for Africa to engage only as victim
- The policy equation of growth, sustainability and equity - Will you tell Kenya not to exploit new found oil?
    - Africa wants to grow(Governments see FDI to get infrastructures, revenue, People want employment, Business see profits- minimum input/labour, maximum output, etc), Africa wants equity of both opportunities and outcomes, Africa wants sustainability of the planet
    - There is a high positive correlation coefficient between growth and environmental impact. N/B- Good practice Denmark has shown that it is possible to register economic growth and cut levels of carbon emission?
- Political issues- The argument that Africa should also be allowed its fair share of an environmental imprint in order to achieve growth and lift its population to middle class. If lifting 1/4 of the world into middle class has caused this damage, what will be the cost of lifting another ¾?

Process Challenge

- Between the UN and AU, who is wagging who?- *Africa engagement is reactive.*
- Information gap- awareness by the CSOs on what Africa is doing?
- Legitimacy- A process for and by the African people or a process of the member states?
- Two strands at the global level that though sharing the same UN support base have different players and forums. Players in both processes talk of convergence, merger etc but there is a lack a clear point of convergence.

Different origins same destination

Origin

Human Development
- Summits of the 1990s such as Beijing, EFA goals etc
- Millennium Declaration 2000
- Road Map report- MDGs
- UN Processes
- UNNGA 2013 ➔➔➔➔

Sustainability Environment/Climate change
- Kyoto Protocol
- Rio 2012 summit proposed SDG
- Open Working Group
- UNGA 2014 ➔➔➔
- HLPF ➔➔➔➔

Destination

SDGs
- Social
- Economic
- Environment

MDGs
- Goals 1-6
- Goal 8
- Goal 6
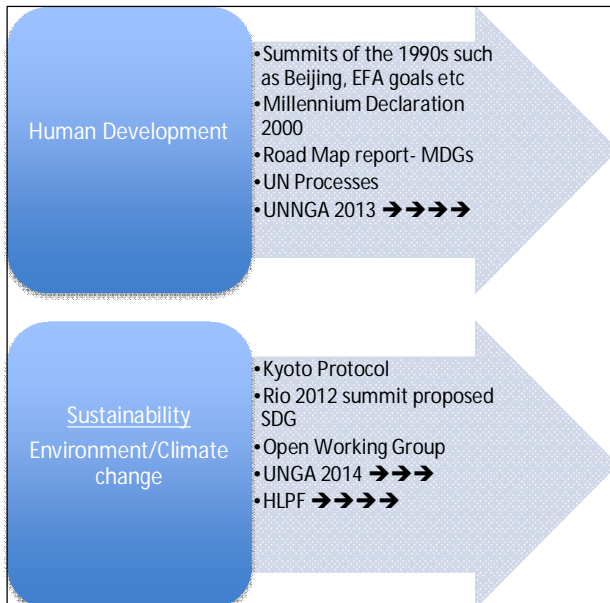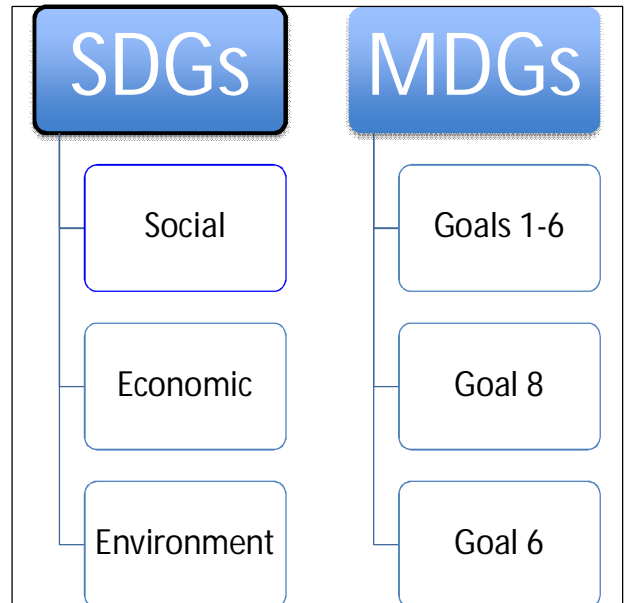
Three processes are providing input into the post-2015 dialogue
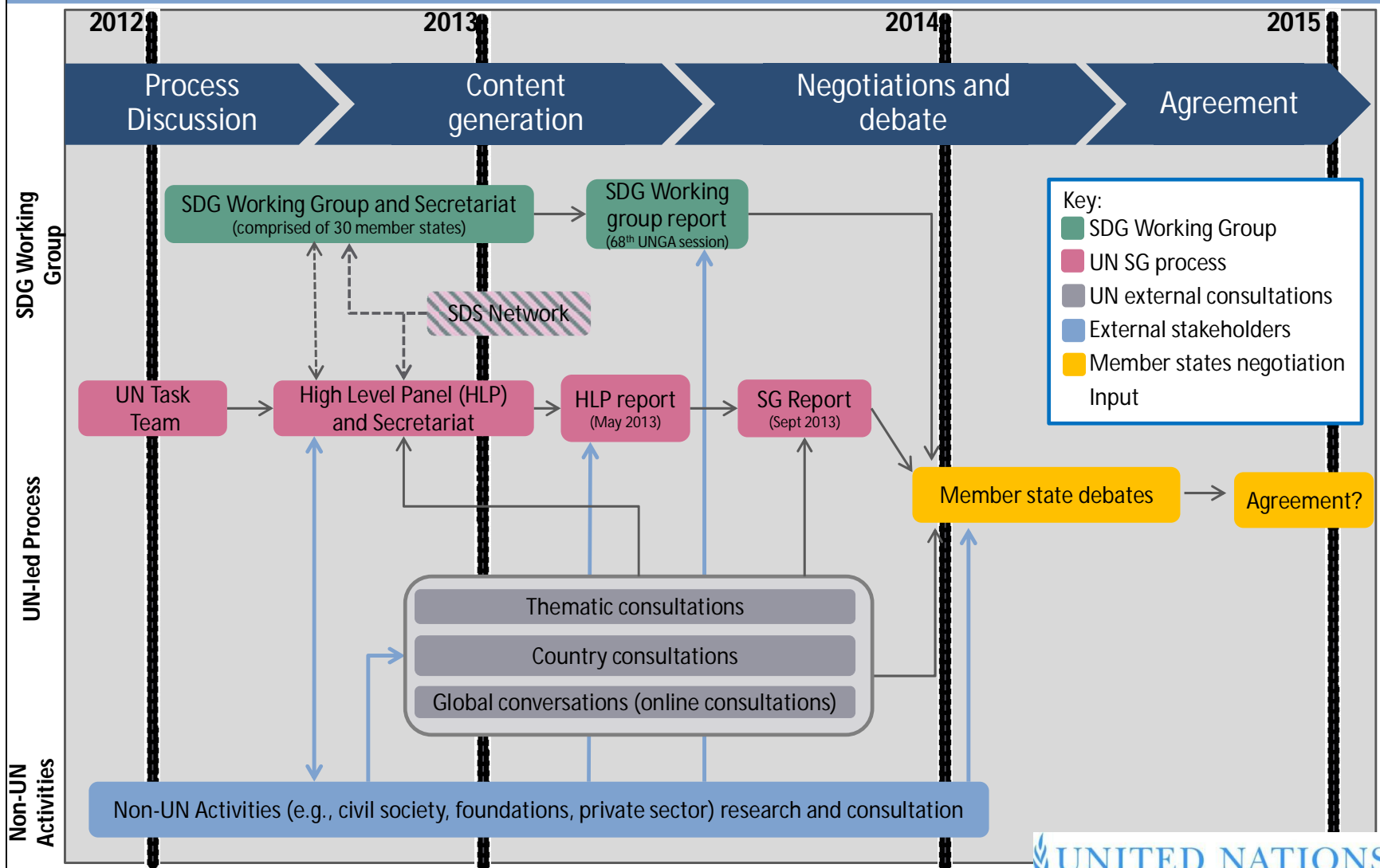
Source: UN Foundation and Dalberg analysis

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

18

BEYOND 2015 AND THE UN PROCESS

COLOUR CODE: PINK – SDG process, BLUE – post-MDG process, GREY – post-MDG consultations, GREEN – current MDGS

Point of convergence issues

- The UN Foundation diagram sees convergence in 2014
- CSOs see it differently- The many question marks in the orange box show that the multiple strands inputting to the post-2015 agenda lack a defined point of convergence and there is no clarity yet on whether we will have one single discussion on a single set of goals.

With a lack of clarity on when and where decisions are being made governments will most likely hold their cards close to their chest to keep their options open. They will most likely await the outcomes of the HLP report, the open working groups, and the Secretary General's report, before backing one or determining their own approach to the new framework; a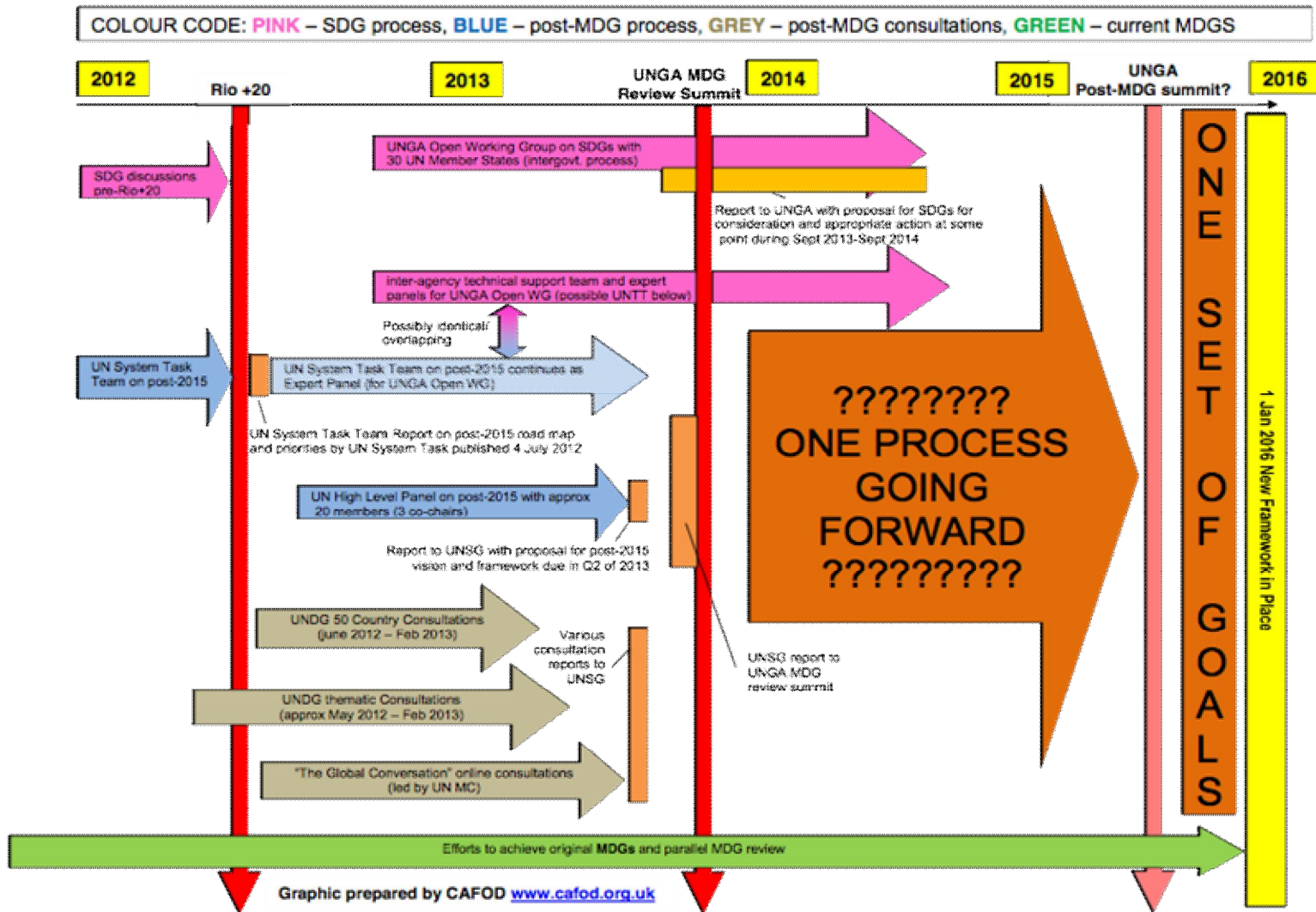t present this waiting game is generally creating inertia. There is always the possibility that, whatever the outcomes of the Secretary General's report in September 2013, the governments might defer their decision-making for another year.

Key messages from the discussion:

Is there an African process on the SDGs? Participants criticised the lack of clarity on the conceptual framework of the SDGs. African governments are engaged at high level, but they do not involve CSOs. The process, thus, lacks legitimacy and ownership. There is a huge gap regarding the relations UN–AU–national governments–CSOs/Trade Unions. Without a doubt, there is also an information gap with regard to the SDGs development. The African engagement is only reactive, and victimisation is common (e.g. with regard to the burden of environmental impacts of climate change). It was observed that generally African governments lack the capacity to engage, while non-state actors often are ahead in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda. Though the South exerted good leadership in terms of influencing the HLP report (May 2013), and providing input, the decision-makers seem to be drawn from other fora such as G77.

Prosperity, industrialisation and exploitation of resources is top on the agenda of African leaders. Thus, a strategy needs to be communicated on how to develop in a sustainable way. So far, the AU does not deliver any input. Besides it has been an either/or-debate. Accordingly, the question was raised whether there is space for an alternative model within the current framework, instead of pushing the alternative framework. Development comes at a cost, and there will be trade-offs we have to deal with. As a matter of justice, developing countries should be given the space to develop. It was remarked that it will not be possible to stop the exploitation of oil, e.g. in Nigeria, but it must be managed effectively with negative externalities included. There are sufficient resources to mobilise domestic sources of funding. In this respect, bad political leadership was stated as a major problem. Government officials have to be reminded that governance is not a personal business but about fulfilling an agreement with citizens.

Civil society does not see the convergence of the two abovementioned processes (SDGs and post-2015 goals) into one set of goals. Yet, there is also general disagreement on complementarities between MDGs and SDGs and their merger, with proponents of this view seeking to keep separate the two approaches. The plenary agreed, however, that there is a danger of confusion and even inertia due to the multiplicity of processes, as indicated on page 21. Finally, concerns were raised on the SDGs' M & E framework and the development of a legally versus non-legally binding agreement.

3.3 Session 3: Breakout groups on "What Post-2015 Development Agenda and what SDGs for Africa?"

Focus of the African Position:

Structural Economic Transformation and Inclusive Growth
1. Inclusive sustainable growth
2. Agriculture food security and nutrition
3. Inclusive green growth
4. Industrialization and value addition
5. Infrastructure and development

Innovation, Technology Transfer and Research and Development
1. Enhance technological capacities

Human Development
1. Eradication of poverty
2. Education and human capital development
3. Universal and equitable access to quality health care
4. Gender equality and women's empowerment
5. Population dynamics: Realizing Africa's demographic dividend
6. Water resource management
7. Disaster risk reduction
8. Access to shelter

Financing and Partnerships
1. Building a wide partnership and ensuring sustained and secured financial recourses

1. Results Working Group I

Open Dialogue Session
- Concern: some issues as agreed in the region, in Addis Ababa not in the African Position
- How does the African Position paper relate to HLP Report

UN HLP Report ; Critique
- Inclusive development is vague, and need clear definition (what does it mean?)
- Inclusivity vs exclusivity
- It is the economic model of capitalism that led to exclusion, how will inclusion model work in the new economy
- Recommend; clarification on social and economic inclusion models
- Human trafficking aspect missing

UN HLP Report ; Critique

- Most targets and measure focus on quantities just as MDG targets, we need to have quality and quantity measures. For example if we have 100 women access health care, what if they take 10 hours before being served?
- Some issues are ambitious eg 50% for maternity services., what of other 50%. The same applies to poverty target
- While the HLP report talks of 'no left behind', the aspects of 50% /elimination of extreme poverty mean some will be left behind- a sense of contradiction and too much focus on intentions other than 'how'.
- How do we answer the HOW without being prescriptive

UN HLP Report ; Critique

- Gender and Equality- two too broad issues
  - good but concern on some vagueness in the goals eg goal around ending discrimination of women in socio-economic and political sphere. But what does this mean, what are the specifics and actions to be done
  - Universal Sex and reproduction rights can be done cheaply but has not been done, why have these not yet achieved . Be more specific and use existing platforms such as Beijing platform
  - Leaving them broad help avoid controversy , but do not help solve the problem . What of the issues on abortion , access,

UN HLP Report ; Critique

Environmental Sustainability

- We use resources effectively to conserve environmental rather than react to the severe effects of environmental related disasters
- Develop better measure for conservations
- The community involvement in all the structures eg local communities as watchdogs
- Engage all institutions other than one body to manage and conserve the resources
- Use indigenous variety of species (trees) to promote conservation and use of indigenous knowledge systems in managing the environment
- Access and benefit to local resources –prevent abuse of patent rights in commercial exploitation of the indigenous species

Terms? Development

- Look at meaning of development and environmental sustainability
- What development means in a farmer in rural Africa differs from the understanding in the West
- We agree that development has varied meanings across the globe-how then do we have a globally acceptable definition of development
- We could use the framework of human rights and its universality- what is universal l to all such as education

Africa Position: Critique

- **Human Development**
- Healthcare – we need multi-sectorial approach to the issues eg policies that go beyond the health ministry

Africa Position: what are missing?

- Peace and security –will it include god governance
- Social protection –(many Africans go to West to seek social protection)
- Decent employment (though we have human development)-Arab revolution was about unemployment
- **Democracy and good governance** (was rejected by African governments)
  - Was rejected because it would allow foreign interference, however reason is that the leaders are main abusers of human rights
  - It is up to the civil society to raise the flag, most African issues are caused by poor governance, this should not be a cross cutting issue but be made a stand a lone goal
  - If made 'beyond enabler' then most African challenges can be addressed

Africa Position:Financing and Partnership

- We need to clear targets, goals and measures of partnerships, these were missing in the MDGs

Overall Concern: the Process

- There will be no consultations as inter-governmental bodies take over
- How will the CSOs take part
- How will CSOs defend some of the good recommendations, that may be 'removed' by inter-governmental processes
- Eg The first meeting of AU after Rio had no CSO
- African governments will have technical experts to synthesis CSO recommendations, this is high level decision making process, but participation of CSOs is not clear
- This would a vague process since there is no provision for CSOs engagement or opportunity to defend some issues such as reproductive rights

Overall Concern: the Process

- Key Recommendation Issue of process should be clear between now and September . What is the process and how can CSOs take part?
- **Proposals-**
- 1. the high level committee set up by heads of states should develop mechanisms for engaging CSOs
- 2. Reach out to President Johnson to inform her about this
- 3. major breakthrough for CSO was in Rio 92, but issue is who is to represent the NGOs? How do we agree on the representatives and avoid frictions among NGOs? The MGs are listed in Agenda 21
- 4. CSOs should go as a team, if not the West NGOS will dominate the process. Best way is to use the Major Groups
- 5. In SDGs and Post 2015, the CSOs should be represented , and seats given to all meetings leading to the agreement on the goals

Emerging global challenges that should be at the core of SDG Framework: African Perspectives

1. Youth unemployment and African insecurity/fragility

2. (under industrialization and value addition) Rate of natural resources exploitation- the next generation will suffer – One reason is because we lack expertise and capacity

- The issues of environmental conservation and human rights issues as well as development of the areas with the resources

How do we make the Goals relevant to local situations ?

- After the report, countries need to develop specific goals, however CSOs should start developing national sub goals, targets and measures. We may be caught un prepared 'as usual'
- We should start prioritizing national priorities NOW. This requires specifics , facts, clear matrices
- Build capacity of all MGs to develop goals , targets and indicators
- Share the information in networks

2. Results Working Group II

1

MP goal 1 target
6 - Inclusion of business
should be removed as
it is not a problem in
the first place & secondly
it will trigger & promote
land grabs.

Communities
vulnerabilities
expresses itself also
in other ways other
than death &
natural disasters.

2

Engage Cultural practices
and norms that can stand
as obstacles against goal 2.
- Aim at social re-orientation
and attitudinal change
- Cultural sensitivity and
reality on the ground to
promote the processes of change

The care economy
- women care for
families & they are
not paid to it.

3

Education
goals should include
values & attitudes
for sustainability
not just skills for
work. Quality is?

4

?

Goal 5

It is not about who
owns the land but
who controls how land
is used.
Multinationals have
the control through
farm inputs, seeds

55 (c) ...small holder
access to productive
resources, including
irrigation and inputs
for enhanced productivity

Entitlement
left out

6

Right to a healthy
environmental

7

Energy goal
needs to be
refined - the
targets - any effect
on the polities?

8

Creat jobs sustainable
livelihoods & equitable growth
Do this "crowd" jobs?
why not straight forward
as in other goals other
than 'crowd' it in other
things.
(Goal 8)

GOAL 8
e) Reduce urban
unemployment through in
public employment in
Sanitation/drainage,
Waste management,
recycling...

Invest in innovation
and technology in
sustainable jobs &
entrepreneurship
development.

10

Goal 10 - Good governance
& effective institutions
Add target:
Create independent
compliance institutions,
mechanisms &
structure

Goal 10
Include Global
governance & governance
of natural resources

Extending
Capacities to
people & communities

11

Stable & peaceful societies
conflict is not only a
Q of access to justice
but also access to
resources (75% of conflict)
and this includes
global conflicts, occupations
etc.

12

The sustainability
elements are
weak
(General observation)

Financing
Sustainability
more going out of
Africa than what is
coming in

9

24

Comments on the presentation of the working groups' results:

Concerns during the discussion generally centred on the inclusion of the following pillars: social protection, the decent work agenda, inclusiveness, gender equality, youth, local knowledge and culture. Other issues noted as important were tensions, dilemmas and trade-offs which would need to be addressed. It was emphasised that there is no provision in the HLP report on how goals are to be achieved in order to leave policy space for countries to operationalize the goals.

3.4 Session 4: Introduction to key messages of the High Level Panel report
Stefano Prato, Adviser to Betty Maina, High Level Panellist on the Post 2015 agenda

The current myriad of initiatives is meant to converge in the definition of the post-2015 agenda. There are basically three UN-led work streams at the moment:

(1) The OWG on SDGs, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

(2) The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on MDGs in September 2013, and the UN process on MDGs assessment.

(3) The Global Compact, the Sustainable Development Network, and other global initiatives.

The HLP's mandate is to advise the Secretary-General and to provide a report which he will present to the General Assembly (GA). However, there is a subset of two clear agendas: the Rio-follow-up and the post-2015 process. Despite the language used, in reality, these two processes are largely disconnected, and besides address separate constituencies. The aim of convergence seemed to have lost importance over time, although put different in the papers. The HLP only advised on the post-2015 development agenda.

Stefano Prato emphasised that the HLP report defines an agenda which features five critical components, as it is:

- universal

- strongly interconnected (interconnectedness calls for common solutions and responsibilities)

- inclusive (broad variety of stakeholders)

- transformative (need for socioeconomic transformation)

- based on strong ownership

On the assessment of the HLP report, Prato divides his remarks into three areas. Firstly, the HLP report is the result of a very complex negotiation between panel members and the engagement with a variety of constituencies. Widespread consultation deeply influenced discussions and guided the panels' decisions. Importantly, the tensions outside the panel were large, and the panel was often confronted with opposing point of views seeking to provide input.

The High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda released its report "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development" in May 2013. The report can be downloaded here: http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/.

Secondly, Prato debated whether the report is sufficiently solid to integrate different pillars of the agenda. It has to be acknowledged that the report addresses the interconnectedness of challenges. This is especially important when looking for standalone goals, Prato responded to criticism about why there is no inequality-goal which instead appears as cross-cutting issue. Standalone goals, e.g. one for sustainable consumption and production, would certainly highlight its importance, but remove the interconnectedness, because elements from each other goal would need to be removed and added to the standalone goal (e.g. remove the sustainable agriculture element from goal 5 and add it to a potential sustainable consumption and production goal). The Panel recognised that this would rather weaken than strengthen the element. In addition, the lack of solid official statistics frustrates any attempt to highlight issues such as geography or gender for which disaggregated data is required.

Thirdly, on the question whether the report is transformative enough, Prato argues that it matches inclusiveness with "public participation in political processes and civic engagement at all levels" (goal 10). The emphasis is on access to information and government data, as well as political participation. Furthermore, the report calls for an enabling global environment (goal 12). The theory of change brought into the process builds on four pillars in the HLP report:

- the creation of an enabling environment

- political participation is emphasized

- transformation to end poverty through sustainable development

- inclusive process (the promotion of an inclusive process builds on three principles of equity, inclusiveness and sustainability)

The HLP report highlights that there will be no significant post-2015 agenda without structural economic transformation (i.e. diversification of the economy, raising productivity, etc.). On employment and jobs (goal 8), the report deliberately does not differentiate between formal and informal employment. But vertical inequalities and the care economy (unpaid work) were noted as missing elements in the HLP report.

On next steps, Prato said, when the process was planned initially, it was not designed on the premise that so many constituencies would push for one agenda, seeing a potential for convergence of the SDGs with the post-2015 development agenda. The HLP did not want to interfere with other processes. This is why now it seems to be an asymmetric process. Alternatively, the elaboration of the SDGs as inclusive and universal process could become the only process henceforth, but the OWG's mandate is not designed for that. Also, the HLPF's mandate is not designed for integrating the SDGs with the post-2015 development agenda. The alignment could only take place within mandates which were assigned to OWG members nominated by UN Member States. The OWG, however, will submit a proposal on SDGs to the General Assembly on 17 September 2013. This process might not be as inclusive. Bearing this in

mind, the spirit of consultations on the post-2015 agenda open to all stakeholders seemed unique. Prato shared his view on how to engage next and referred to the national level, as the New York-based diplomatic process is time-consuming. Besides, there is confusion about what happens next. The HLP report obviously generated expectations, which is why the Panel will have to play a role in the future, but proposals are needed on how to engage the Panel. The question is whether the HLP report will be used as an instrument, rather than be laid aside. Thus, CSOs have to make a strategic decision. Finally, it is up to CSOs to connect the dots. Prato acknowledges that CSOs try to engage with the UN high-level process, but they should not forget to engage with their relevant constituencies at national level.

Key messages from the discussion:

Participants asked how their feedback will be used. Prato pointed to the fact that the HLP report was completed and submitted to the Secretary-General. Thus, henceforth any feedback has to be forwarded to the Office of the Secretary-General which is closely associated with the report already. Yet, the General Assembly has already been briefed on the report. The next milestone is the Secretary-General's report due on 20 June 2013. Most importantly, the feedback has to be very selective (3 to 4 critical comments) and include positive feedback, too, in order to have any impact.

Although the HLP report's disclaimer mentions that "members of the Panel may not be in full agreement with every specific point" there was no substantial disagreement on content. The HLP started with 78 targets, and there was disagreement on how to reduce them. Concerns centred on health care – whether the goal is universal access to health care (quantitative) as such, or whether it should be complemented by outcome-orientation (qualitative). It was noted that the discussions following outreach efforts are comprised in the annex of the report.

The report uses the national poverty line and the international absolute poverty threshold of USD 1.25 per day, taking into account differences among countries.

3.5 Session 5: The rights-based approach to sustainable development
Jean Pierre Nkunzimana, IBON International

Intoduction	Concepts definitions
• Poverty and inequities between and within countries are amomg the gravest human rights concerns that we face today. Majority of the people are either excluded or denied their right to participate in the making, monitoring and implementation of decisions that affect their lives and their future. Local and especially global elites and powerful actors, on the other hand, are often left unchecked and unaccountable for their actions that have severe negative impacts on society and the environment. • The discussions around a new post-2015 development agenda coupled with a new set of global development goals, the "SDGs," indicate that the new agenda will be more comprehensive, ambitious and possibly inclusive than the MDGs ever were.	**I -Human rights** • Human rights are universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups against actions and omissions that interfere with fundamental freedoms, entitlements and human dignity. • Human rights law obliges Governments and other duty-bearers to do certain things and prevents them from doing others.

The following assertions are shared among development actors

- . All programms of development co-operation, policies and technical assistance should further the realization of human rights as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.
- In a human rights-based approach to programming and development cooperation, the aim of all activities is to contribute directly to the realization of one or several human rights.

Relation between sustainable development and human rights

- Human rights and human development aim at improving people's lives, Being people-centred, development actors should clearly ensure that the technologies are accessible and affordable and that vulnerable groups are not excluded.
- Human rights contribute to human development by guaranteeing a protected space where the elite cannot monopolize development processes, policies and programs.

-Rights talk and rights consciousness

- Rights-based approaches to development do not always take the form of formal institutions and mechanisms, such as international human rights treaties or human rights based approaches to programming, policy and legislation.
- we understand HRBAs to include rights talk where the poor or those speaking on their behalf address human rights based claims against privileged actors, in order to protect their crucial human interests.
- We exclude, here, rights talk that defends the intellectual property of firms and other privileged actors, libertarian discourse that understands redistribution to be rights violation, and related arguments.

- The main —mechanisms of rights-talk are the formation of rights consciousness on the part of those whose rights are violated. Human rights norms have encouraged the formation and probably promoted the effectiveness of civil society organizations (CSOs), both in developing and rich countries; and the CSOs have in turn both pressured governments and provided direct services to poor people. HRBAs might also directly raise the expectations of citizens regarding what they are entitled to.

Judicial enforcement of social and economic rights in developing world

- Judicial Enforcement of Social and Economic Rights in the Developing World draws attention to the importance of enforcement of social rights, the direct and indirect effects of social rights litigation are modest, but positive. Social goods are redistributed to people who need them, and the poor are at least as likely to benefit as the better-off. But while those who use the courts and benefit from their judgments are, in general, not the elites (who need not rely on public services), they are also not the most vulnerable and excluded

Promoting Equality for sustainable development

- -The current dominant development paradigm constitute an obstacle to the realization of rights based approach to development.
- Opening markets and creating space for multinationals to secure profits lie at the heart of the Current dominant development paradigm . Both initiatives are built on the basis of public-private partnerships (PPPs) with the large multinational and business companies' setting the agenda, and states and institutions and philanthropic institutions establishing the institutional and infrastructural mechanisms to realize this agenda.
- Multinational and others business related companies want to secure markets for their products in Africa.

- In the first place, security means protection of their private ownership of knowledge in the form of intellectual property (IP) protection.
- Across Africa, so-called 'harmonisation' of laws and policies are underway to align African laws and systems with the interests of these multinationals.
- Harmonisation of trade laws means opening borders across the continent to free trade. But deals withthe 'formal sector' of goods and services that have gone through approval and registration processes. Those whose goods and services cannot afford to enter the official approval system are marginalized and trading of their products is rendered illegal.

-Inequalities are barriers to sustainable development

- Inequalities are structural barriers to fulfill human development.
- "Addressing inequalities is fundamental to the realization of human development goals."
- -Three ways to address inequalities: Democratization, national sovereignty and development

Three ways to address inequalities: Democratization, national sovereignty and development

- Democracy rests on the fundamental principle of equality:
- that everyone in society should have the same rights and opportunities in making or influencing decisions that affect that society. Democracy must advance equality in all domains. In turn, achieving equality on all fronts reinforces democratization in ever-expanding aspects of society.

Respect for national sovereignty.

- The equality of all nations, respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the right to political self-determination, and peaceful resolution of international disputes.

Human rights as a tool to address inequalities

- Internationally accepted human rights instruments must guide the post-2015 development process. Many of their principles, standards and mechanisms are sufficiently developed to serve as a ready framework for addressing specific inequalities affecting particular groups.

  The achievement of universal human rights and the elimination of inequalities are same at the centre of what we understand by equitable, just and inclusive human development to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.

-The role of civil society organizations and social movements

- Four levels of action to a "framework for transformative change" to tackle Inequalities are suggested.
- a.pro-equality legislation, policy formulation and implementation;
- b. safeguards to protect people "from discrimination, exploitation and harm by others";

Ensure workers' rights in the context of pro-labour policies.

- c. "leveling-up measures" such as social protection and affirmative action to support individuals and groups made more vulnerable to inequalities and their impacts; and
- d. strengthening the "capacity of rights holders to make valid claims."

- Policies that protect labour and defend workers' hard-won rights, including
- laws on minimum wages, collective bargaining mechanisms, the right to unionize, and the like, must be upheld. These are in addition to the need for states to enforce international labour standards and to oblige the private sector to comply with them.

Equitable asset ownership systems.

- The giant industrial and financial monopolies in the developed countries, or landlordism in the developing countries should be prohibited. . Private monopolies or oligopolies over land, finance, technology, services and strategic industries must be broken up, while other practices tending towards monopolistic abuse must be closely regulated.

Adopt progressive income redistribution systems.

- Income redistribution means getting money from those who earn more (principally
- through state taxes and other public revenue) and redistributing the money to those who earn less, thus reducing big income disparities and promoting equality

: Addressing environmental aspects of inequalities

- States and global bodies need to urgently and adequately act to arrest the drivers of climate change and greater environmental decline.
- Developed and developing countries must achieve fair agreements on financing knowledge-sharing and technology transfer for climate adaptation.
- Governments and civil society must enhance national capacity to implement environmental regulations.

Peace and security based on justice

- Promote inclusive development processes-- respecting the rights of all socio-cultural groups, minorities, indigenous peoples, religions, etc. over their cultural heritage and natural resources and respecting their right to define and pursue their development aspirations.
- Adopt policy of eliminating nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction and arms trading.
- Rechanneled military expenditure to social expenditure

conclusion

- The ongoing process of establishing a new set of sustainable development goals and a post-2015 development framework should inspire governments to address these challenges. This process should recognize human rights priorities and provide full mechanisms and opportunities not just for consultations but for full participation of civil society in deliberations and decision-making at all levels. END

Key messages from the discussion:

The issue of intellectual property rights (IPR) was discussed at length. Participants stressed that it is not IPR per se they oppose but how they are used by large multinational corporations.

It was reiterated that the development agenda must focus on the fulfilment of human rights. In addition, the right to development must be an element of the new agenda. In this regard, Nkunzimana criticises the organisation of consul-

tations. He noted that citizens have the right to express their opinion and participate in decision-making which affects their lives. Yet, to ensure stakeholder participation, side events are convened. UNEP said, one argument supporting citizen participation which is surprisingly often neglected is that it is cheaper when decisions reflect the public interest, because it avoids public discontent which might incur high costs.

Participants expressed concern that the HLP report might undermine the human rights framework by providing an optional framework. The question was raised whether it is more helpful to have a strong, but not binding political statement, than striving for a binding agreement which definitely will be watered down before being endorsed by the member states. According to Prato, much focus is on perfecting the language of agreements.

It was remarked that the challenge with rights-based approaches (RBA) in policy decisions is to gain legal status, and to ensure enforcement of human rights. Generally, participants highlighted the major problem relating to passing national laws, and enforcement mechanisms which makes it impossible to bridge the gap from declarations to practices. The right of the public to have access to information was given as an example: it only works in countries with constitutional guarantees. Moreover, participants called for the development of national complaint mechanisms. Participants stressed the need for international reference to support struggles at the local level. They wondered whether the SDGs framework will embrace a strong accountability mechanism.

Another issue noted as important is the human rights consciousness which enables to assert claims.

3.6   Session 6: Institutional framework and mechanisms to support inclusive goals

A brief session was dedicated to the institutional framework. In chapter 4 on implementation, the HLP report outlines four "processes to move from an agreement in New York to a programme" (see pp. 21 et seq.):

(1) Unifying Global Goals with National Plans

(2) Global Monitoring and Peer Review

(3) Stakeholders Partnering
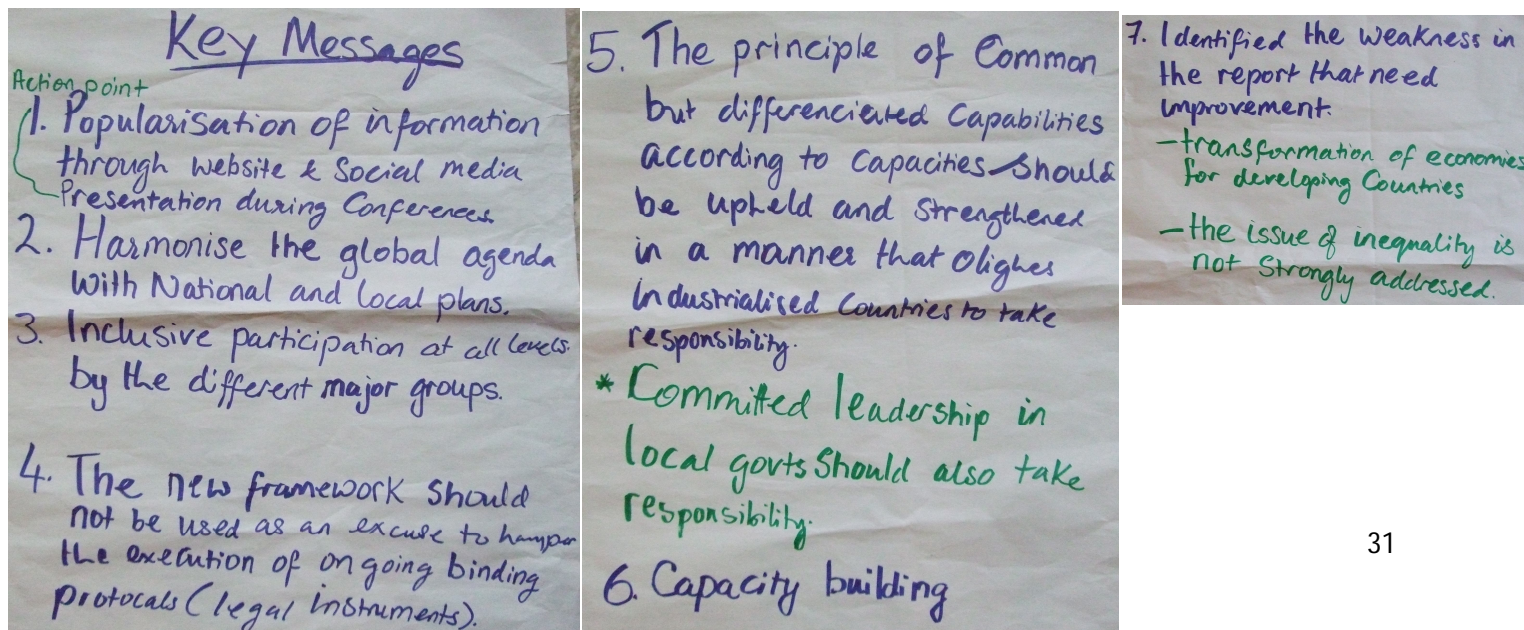
(4) Data Revolution

3.7   Session 7: Way forward and wrap-up

Participants reiterated the need for the civil society to stay engaged. They emphasised that the involvement of all stakeholders needs to be improved, and clarification is needed on the modalities for inclusive participation in the HLPF on sustainable development (e.g. a steering group parallel to the high-level forum).
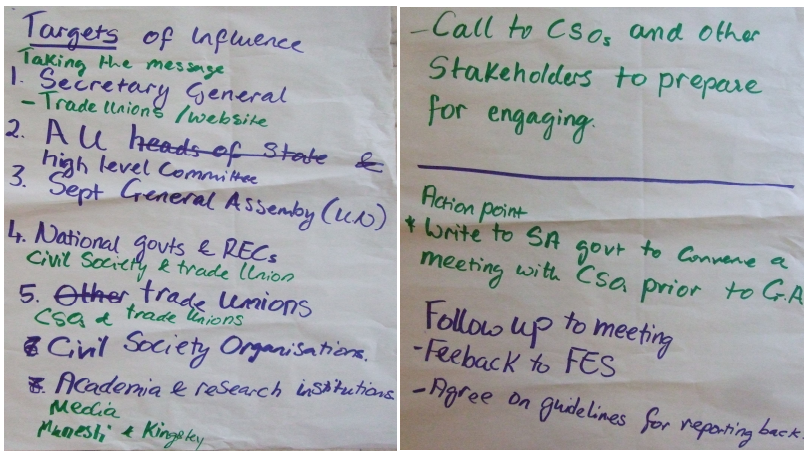
It was proposed to use existing channels of communication, i.e. to consult with Amina Mohammed, the Secretary-General's special advisor on post-2015, before 20 June 2013, and to influence the African Group in the UN system before they present their position in September this year. The African Union's newly established High-level Committee of Heads of State will formally adopt the African position in January 2014, and the member states are still to provide input, which is certainly another important opportunity for Major Groups engagement.

Discussion addressed the need for the popularisation of information beyond those Major Groups' representatives officially participating in the process, and participants pointed to the use of social media. CSOs and Trade Unions agreed that the Executive Summary of the HLP report could be used to inform constituencies via websites or public discussion.

Wrap-up:

Key Messages

Action point

1. Popularisation of information through website & Social media Presentation during Conferences

2. Harmonise the global agenda with National and local plans.

3. Inclusive participation at all levels by the different major groups.

4. The new framework should not be used as an excuse to hamper the execution of on going binding protocals (legal instruments).

5. The principle of Common but differenciated Capabilities according to Capacities Should be upheld and strengthened in a manner that Obliges Industrialised Countries to take responsibility.

* Committed leadership in local govts Should also take responsibility.

6. Capacity building

7. Identified the weakness in the report that need improvement.
- transformation of economies for developing Countries
- the issue of inequality is not Strongly addressed.

During the reflection on the HLP report, participants identified weaknesses and called for improvement with regard to: capacity development; inequality; transformation of economies in Developing Countries; and youth.

Finally, participants defined their target audience for further engagement on the overall post-2015 agenda and the SDGs: office of the Secretary-General; AU High-level Committee; national governments; regional organisations; OWG; South Africa's Kingsley Mamabolo as Co-Facilitator for the preparatory process of the General Assembly's Special Event to follow-up on MDGs in September 2013; Trade Unions and CSOs; Academia; Media.

4 Annex

4.1 Communique: Conclusions of the Civil Society and Trade Unions Forum on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

African Civil Society and Trade Unions met at Nairobi Safari Club from 6th – 7th June 2013 at a forum organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to deliberate on global and regional processes that are impacting on sustainable development and in particular interrogate the report of the High Level Panel (HLP), the African common position on post-2015 MDGs, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process. The forum brought together 35 participants from 11 countries.

We deliberated on a number of issues and concerns that should inform current and future processes and frameworks on sustainable development (in terms of eradicating poverty, promoting inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, environmental sustainability, peace and security) for the current and the future generations.

Our key concerns, conclusions and recommendations are:

1.   Currently, the mechanism of broadening CSOs engagement in the run up to September 2013 is not clear in the following processes: UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Technical Group on the development of an African common position, the AU High Level Committee on post-2015 MDGs, among others. There is therefore a need for establishing a transparent mechanism which ensures inclusive, timely and meaningful participation of Major Groups at all levels in the meetings and process leading to the adoption and formulation the post-2015 development framework.

2.   There is the need for more meaningful and full inclusion of African civil society in the process of developing the African common position and the attendant goals, targets and indicators as mandated by the Abidjan AU meeting (which explicitly recognized the role of other stakeholders in this process) as opposed to leaving this process to UN agencies.

3.   The Forum acknowledged the fact that the HLP report is progressive and provides a generally good basis for moving the post-2015 agenda forward.

Specifically the Forum noted that the HLP Report, written in a reader-friendly language, provides a strong link with the Sustainable Development Agenda, and initiates a process of consolidating disparate views from different stakeholders with competing interests.

The Forum, however, noted with concern some critical weaknesses:

•   The Report is not transformative and inclusive enough as it does not reflect calls by civil society to change the global economic order, which places interests of corporates at the centre before that of citizens, and which does not recognize women's unpaid care work.

- Inequality should be included as a standalone goal or at least come out much clearer and stronger than it is, since most of the development challenges facing the world today are directly linked to inequality.

- Social Protection should be included as a standalone goal, as it is very critical for the protection of poor, vulnerable and marginalised groups, and with the objective of reducing insecurity.

- The target on 'universal sexual and reproductive health and rights' should be more specific to avoid incorrect, discriminatory or selective interpretation by governments. At a minimum, the target should call for universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services.

- On peace and security, the HLP report places a disproportionately heavy burden on conflicted countries and fails to realize the role of corporations and developed countries in starting and escalating conflicts.

- In certain aspects, particularly in the formulation of goals, targets and indicators, the report has failed to avoid the weaknesses of the current MDGs framework where the main focus was measuring the increase in quantity with too little attention paid to qualitative achievements.

- The report contradicts one of its envisaged key transformational shifts i.e. "leave no one behind" by targeting percentages for the achievement of certain goals. It is obvious that with targeting percentage achievement not only some but many people will be left behind.

4. The Forum recognizes the urgent need to harmonize the global agenda with national and local plans and priorities to ensure ownership and sustainability of outcomes.

5. There is a need for the post-2015 development framework to be guided and comply with the Rio Principles including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (Principle 7); the precautionary approach (Principle 15); the polluter pays principle (Principle 16); and the access to justice, information and public participation principle (Principle 10). Developed and industrialized countries should take more responsibility in ensuring global outcomes, while governments from developing countries take responsibility for effective leadership and accountability to achieve local outcomes.

6. The Forum reiterated concern that the processes and outcomes of the new sustainable development pact should facilitate the completion of current on-going binding treaties/protocols rather than be used as an excuse to hamper their completion.

7. African civil society should commit further to capacity building at all levels to ensure more effective and inclusive participation in the processes so as to create the preconditions for the mobilisation of citizens.

8. The Forum noted the need to clarify the use and definition of the terms 'inclusive economic development' and 'inclusive social development'.

Nairobi, 7th June 2013

4.2   List of participants

NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
Africa Kiiza, Mr.	SEATINI (Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute)	Uganda
Akinola Olanrewaju, Mr.	Africa Health, Human & Social Development (Afri-Dev) Alliance / Africa Health, Human & Social Development (Afri-Dev) Parliamentary Network	Nigeria
Alexander Juras, Mr.	United Nations Environment Programme, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch	Kenya
Augustine Njamnshi, Mr.	Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme	Cameroon
Cathleen Yi Tin, Ms.	United Nations Environment Programme, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch	Kenya
Daniel Boatey, Mr.	GTUC	Ghana
Daniel Nyanganyura, Dr.	ICSU Regional Office for Africa	RSA
Dinah Musindarwezo, Ms.	FEMNET	Kenya
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George Ndungu, Mr.	African Youth Working Group on Post-2015 Agenda	Kenya
Glenn Farred, Mr.	SADC-Council of NGOs	Botswana
Grace Nakanwagi, Ms.	Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement (EMLI)	Uganda
Haron Oichoe, Mr.	Organisation of African Youth	Kenya
Hauwa Mustapha, Ms.	Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC)	Nigeria

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Mwangi Waituru, Mr.	SEED Institute	Kenya
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Peter Oesterdiekhoff, Dr.	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Kenya Office	Kenya
Samuel M. Saitabao, Mr.	Kenya Young Greens	Kenya
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Yahya Msangi, Mr.	ITUC-Africa	Togo