

African Regional Engagement in Post Rio+20, and SDGs

Stephen Chacha
13th October 2013

At the Africa RIM for CSD-20; African Member States re-affirmed that SDGs should be based on the following 8 principles:

- The Rio principles **particularly the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)** taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities;
- **The goals, targets and indicators should embody the three dimensions of sustainable development**, as well as issues pertaining to governance for sustainable development;
- The SDGs should be action-oriented and allow for tracking progress towards sustainable development overtime. In this regard, they should have clear and measurable targets designed taking into account different regional and national priorities, realities, capacities and development levels;
- Should be universal in nature and flexible enough to cater for different national priorities;

African Member States re-affirmed that SDGs should be based on the following 8 principles:

- The **SDGs must build on and complement the MDGs** that must be maintained and be effectively implemented and supported;
- The SDGs must be accompanied by **adequate means of implementation particularly financing, technological transfer and capacity building**;
- Promote equitable and inclusive human-centred development; and
- The SDGs should be developed in the context of *One United Nations Development Agenda*.

SDGs priority areas for Africa

- Poverty eradication;
- Combating hunger, ensuring food security and nutrition;
- **Access to safe water supply and adequate sanitation facilities**;
- Access to quality education and health services;
- Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women;
- Equitable and universal access to social services and social protection;
- Sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
- **Reducing vulnerability and promoting resilience, including to the impacts of climate change**;

SDGs priority areas for Africa

- Creating decent employment opportunities;
- Enhancing infrastructure development;
- Ensuring access to affordable and sustainable energy;
- Combating land degradation and desertification, drought and deforestation;
- Addressing climate change challenges, including through adaptation and mitigation;
- Promoting sustainable water resource management;
- Ensuring favorable access to, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including for climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
- Fostering peace and security.

Updating of the African Common Position on SDGs

Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 31st October to 5th November 2013.

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UNGA Open Working Group on SDGs

UNGA Decision on the OWG on SDGs - 67/555, 22nd January 2013.

Co-Chairs: Kenya and Hungary

- Tanzania;
- Kenya;
- Benin;
- Ghana;
- Congo Republic;
- Algeria/ Egypt;
- Zambia/ Zimbabwe.

UNGA OWG Sessions held so far (March to June 2013)

- OWG-1: Conceptualizing the SDGs. 14th - 15th March 2013
- OWG-2: In-depth discussions on conceptualizing the SDGs and on poverty eradication, 17th to 19th April 2013
- OWG-3: (a) food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought, and (b) water and sanitation, 22nd to 24th May 2013
- OWG-4: (a) employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture and (b) health, population dynamics, 17th to 19th June 2013

Upcoming UNGA OWG Sessions

- OWG-5: (a) Sustained and inclusive Economic Growth, (b) Macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability) and infrastructure development, and (c) Industrialization and energy, 25th to 27th November 2013
- OWG-6: (a) Means of implementation (science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building), (b) Global partnership for achieving sustainable development, (c) Needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries, and the right to development, (d) Human rights, and (e) Global governance, 9th to 13th December 2013
- OWG-7: (a) Sustainable cities and human settlements, (b) Sustainable transport, (c) Sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste), (d) Climate change, and (e) Disaster risk reduction. 6th to 10th January 2014.
- OWG-8: (a) Oceans and seas, (b) Forests and biodiversity, (c) Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment, (d) Conflict prevention, post-conflict peace building and the promotion of durable peace, and (e) Rule of law and governance. 3th to 7th February 2013

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- A global intergovernmental High Level Political Forum has been established and replaced the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD), and met for the first time at the beginning of 68th session of UNGA.
- This is one of the Rio+20 outcomes.
- HLPF is going to follow up on implementation of sustainable development.

Post 2015 - The Road Map

The new agenda:

- *“will build on the foundations laid by the MDGs, complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges”.*
- *“should reinforce the international community’s commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development”.*
- *“need for a coherent approach which integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development”*
- *be a “single framework and set of Goals -universal in nature and applicable to all, while taking account of differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities”*
- *it will be an “inclusive and people-centered agenda”.*

Post 2015 - The Road Map

The process:

- UN MS will launch a process of **intergovernmental negotiations** at the beginning of the 69th session of UNGA [Sept 2014] which will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.
- The other consultative processes (including the OWG SDGs) have to finalize their work before September 2014.
- From now till September 2014, the PGA will convene a series of events under the theme “The Post-2015 Development Agenda - Setting the Stage”
- Should be a “transparent intergovernmental process which will include inputs from all stakeholders including civil society, scientific and knowledge institutions, parliaments, local authorities, and the private sector”.

Post 2015 - The Road Map

The process:

- Before the end of 2014, the SG will prepare a report to synthesize the full range of inputs available.
- The final phase of the intergovernmental work will culminate in a **Summit at HoSG level in September 2015** for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.
- The PGA will convene intergovernmental consultations to organize the **modalities** for the Summit [this means that the GA will have to adopt a Resolution detailing the process, which includes when, how, and who will be participating].

Climate Summit 2014

The UN SG will be hosting a "Climate Summit" in September 2014 in New York at the level of the Heads of State and Government.

www.un.org/climatechange/summit2014

