

AFTER RIO+20 MOVING BEYOND 2015

Peoples' Sustainability Treaties in a Post Rio+20 Future:
Advancing a Global Citizens Movement Around Sustainable Development
A week-long set of Workshops from 15-19th October, 2012 at: SC-219, Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ, USA

Day 01/October 15, 2012

“Rio+20: A Critical Analysis”

A MACRO
REVIEW OF

RIO +20

A stylized parrot logo is positioned behind the text. The parrot's head is red and turned to the right. Its wings are composed of several overlapping, fan-like shapes in shades of green, yellow, and blue. Its tail is composed of several long, curved feathers in shades of orange, red, and blue.

by UCHITA DE ZOYSA

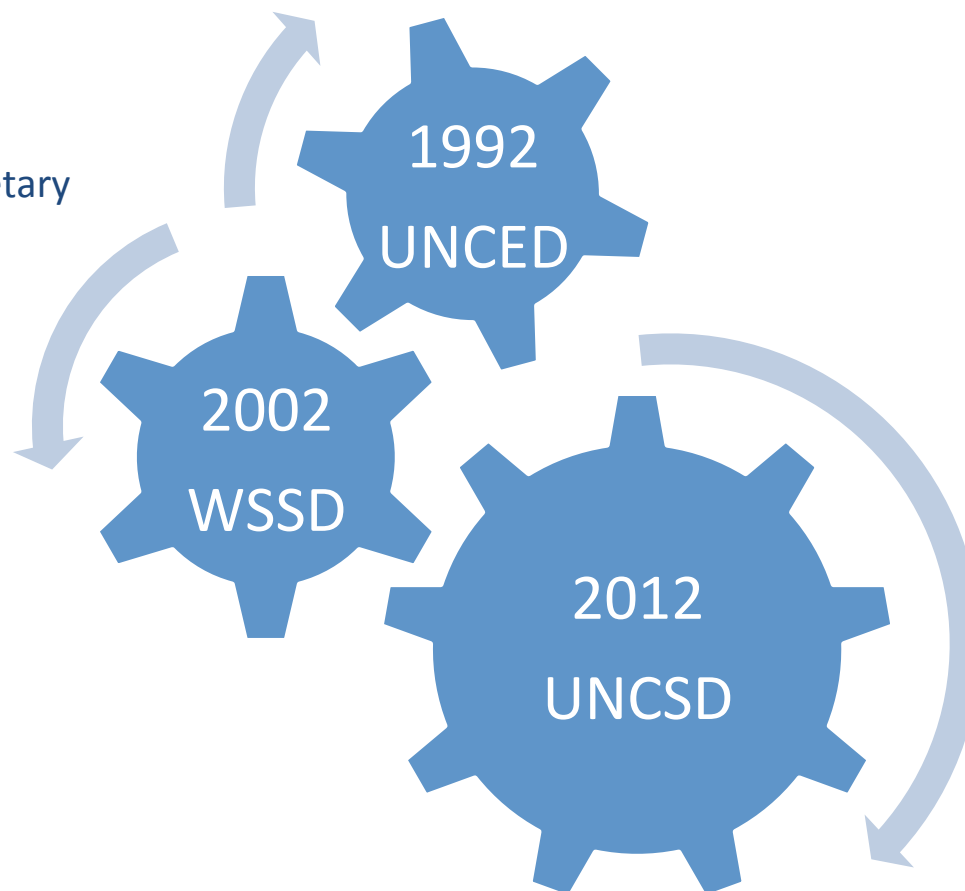
Rio1992 – Rio2012: a personal journey



Rio1992 – Rio2012: A Planetary Journey

“Last chance to
save the earth”

Mr. Maurice Strong (Secretary
General UNCED1992)



“humanity
stands at a
crossroads.
Nature waits
for no one,
and nature’s
warning signs
are flashing.”

Mr. Sha Zukang
(Secretary-General,
UNCSD 2012)

Macro vs. Micro Analysis

- Analysis 01: Rio+20 was a success
- Analysis 02: Rio+20 achieved some progress
- Analysis 03: Rio+20 was a historical failure



BIG PICTURE vs. small picture

Official Perspectives



- *"We have made significant progress in Rio to advance sustainable energy for all, an approach that links development, social inclusion and environmental protection"* Ban Ki-moon, UN-SG
- *The document does not entirely match our ambition or meet the challenges the world faces, but it is an important step forward. That's why we support it, and that's why we must engage"* Janez Potočnik-EU's environment commissioner
- *"The political significance of Rio is that the G77 nations are antagonistic to our European ideas on the green economy"* Nick Clegg, Head of UK delegation

Business Perspectives



- “This is the first time that the governmental leaders realize that without the buy-in of business, the solutions they're going to produce are not going to meet the challenges.” Peter Bakker, president of the World Business Council for Sustainable Business

Civil Society Perspectives



- *"The epic failure of Rio+20 was a reminder that short-term corporate profit rules over the interests of people. Governments came offering no money or commitments to action. They say they can't put money on the table because of the economic crisis, but they spend money on greedy banks and on saving those who caused the crisis. They spend \$1 trillion a year on subsidies for fossil fuels and then tell us they don't have any money to give to sustainable development."* - Daniel Mittler, political director of Greenpeace
- *"politicians have let fear rather than courage gain the upper hand, which will result in us being driven even further into the arms of a bankrupt belief system"* - Professor Tim Jackson at Rio+20
- *Two years of negotiations have culminated in a Rio+20 outcome that makes almost no progress for women's rights and rights of future generations in sustainable development"* The Women's Major Group (WMG),

Why Rio+20?

1. secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development
2. assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and
3. address new and emerging challenges



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

Secure Political Commitment?

- Two years of lethargic negotiations?
- The political interest back home?
- 3rd PrepCom?
- The final show – no show?

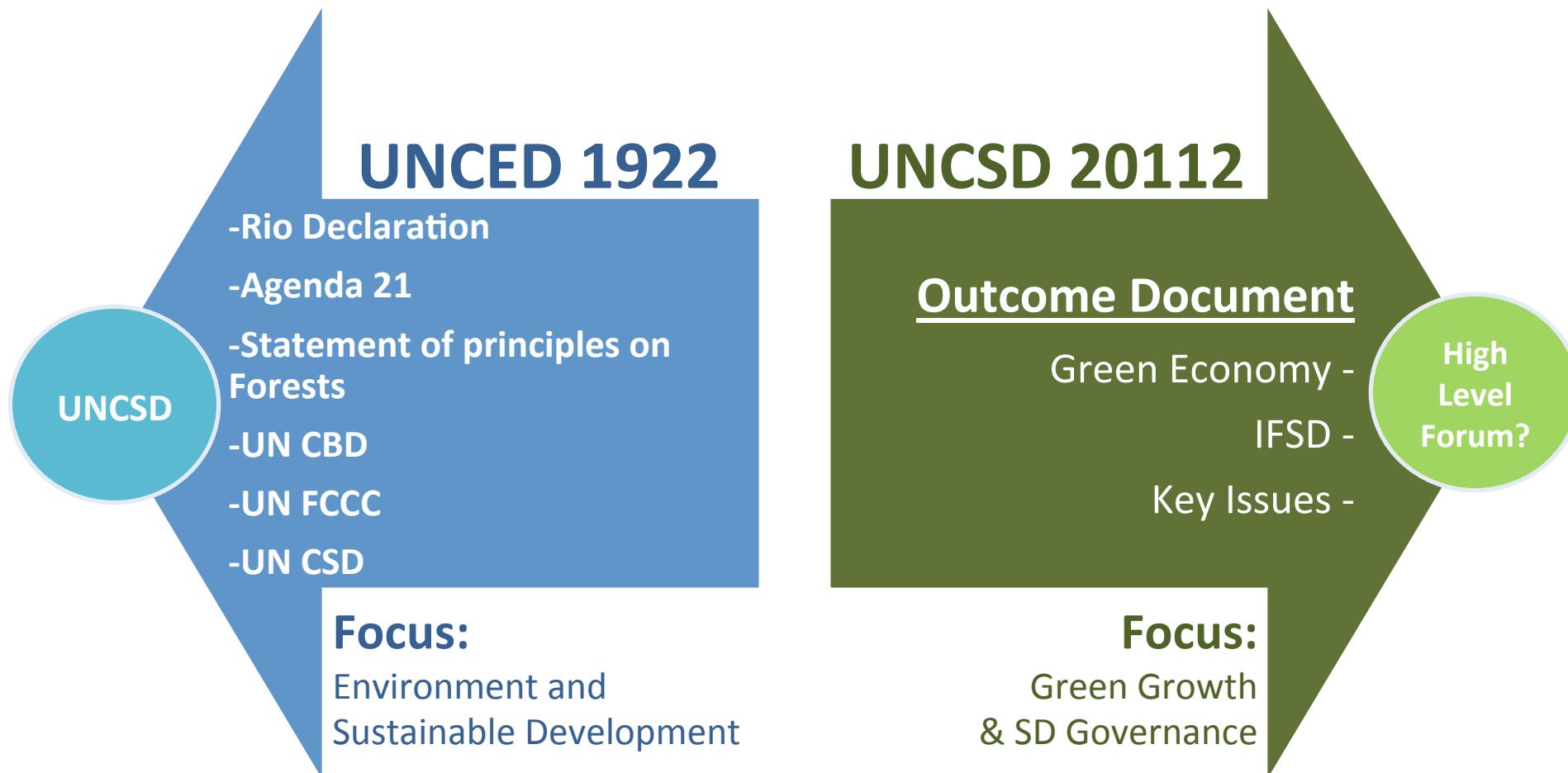
Barack Obama, Angela Merkel and David Cameron were absent at Rio+20



No Political Commitment!

“Rio+20 opens a new phase in the global redistribution of power that has been taking shape since the beginning of the financial crisis in 2008. The main actors’ behavior around the Conference is consistent with this new scenario, starting with those who were not there. Obama did not go to Rio. We already knew that the US government was not only not prepared to take up the leadership at Rio+20, but that it had abandoned, as well, any intention of implementing global policies that would regulate the ongoing ecological imbalances, national and global. Angela Merkel did not go to Rio either. François Hollande came to establish that the official declaration was not equal to the challenges and returned to France to concentrate on the first measures of a government surrounded by countries in crises with repercussions in the whole of Europe, bogged down in ever-growing debt and unemployment. The African countries were far from forming a united and solid bloc, and neither did the governments of the other continents, including the majority of Latin American countries, organize a united front. The Chinese government, wishing to avoid a leading role given how very difficult that would have been in a world in crisis, and at the same time under pressure from ever-stronger economic and social tensions in China, decided to keep a low profile and skirted any global decision that might bind it to obligations it is not prepared to assume. So the government of Brazil played the only role left to play to prevent a complete fiasco of the Conference, and it imposed a text based on the lowest common denominator to avert disagreements.” *(Gustavo Marin, Forum for a New World Governance)*

Assess the Progress?



Address New & Emerging Challenges?

Discussed emerging issues

1. Jobs
2. Energy
3. Cities
4. Food
5. Water
6. Oceans
7. Disasters

Dodged global challenges

1. EQUITY?
2. Poverty Eradication?
3. Climate Change?
4. Unsustainable Sustainable Consumption & Production?
5. Sustainable Economic Prosperity?
6. Fairness & Justice in trade and markets?
7. Business Accountability?

The Process

- Lethargic representatives from national missions in New York were reluctant participants to most of the negotiations.
- Little was known by governments back home - they could care less given the low profile of the conference.
- Negotiations were simply kept alive by civil society and major groups - challenging the agenda
- By the time governments woke up, the zero draft was already on the table - leaving them a single option of negotiating forced text.

Zero (-) Draft

- Zero draft was the first real evidence that Rio+20 could seriously damage twenty plus years of sustainable development work
- It was a zero minus draft
- It ignored the hundreds of submissions
- Even shocked government negotiators who called for greater imagination by the UN Secretariat for Rio+20.
- Whose agenda was this zero draft trying to promote?

<u>Political Groups</u>	5	(1%)
<u>Member States</u>	100	(15%)
<u>Regional Mtg Outcomes</u>	5	(1%)
<u>UN & IGOs</u>	74	(11%)
<u>Major Groups</u>	493	(73%)
Total	677	

The Future We (don't) Want

- The zero draft of the outcome document was ironically named as “The Future We Want”.
- This led to an immediate outcry and a campaign that was to be called “The Future We Don't Want” was mooted in response.
- Rio+20 which was a boring and low participatory event suddenly came alive with rights based groups from across the world joining the debate and challenging the UN process.

Saving the Summit

- Strange that the 3rd PrepCom was planned for Rio de Janeiro - just four days before the summit.
- Unusual that there was no real panic amongst parties to the conference, after the prepcom failed
- The Brazilian government could not have a total failure – they had a smart plan to save the summit
- Four days prior the summit were used by the Brazilian government to hijack Rio+20
- Once the UN secretariat handed over the summit to the Brazilian hosts, they took over the outcome document and came up with another version of “The Future We Want” which was released as a consensus document of all parties.

Diplomacy Prevailed

- The day prior Rio+20 summit, on the 19th of June 2012, the Brazilian government released the final consensus outcome document.
- Before the summit and before national leaders arrived in the plenary hall, the summit was more or less over and done with.
- “The Future We Want” outcome document was already adopted - rest of the agenda was for heads of states to make statements.
- The document was a sharp piece of diplomacy that included more or less everything in question, but shrewdly avoiding any new political commitment. .

So called Rio+20 agreements

- to strive for sustainable consumption and production,
- to ensure food security, clean water and sanitation, and affordable, and sustainable energy for all,
- to act on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity,
- to curtail marine pollution, overfishing and ocean acidification,
- to strengthen social protection floors and tackle global unemployment, especially youth unemployment,
- to build more livable and sustainable cities and communities with decent housing and sustainable transport for all,
- to enhance support to small island developing States, the least developed countries and other countries in special situations

Outcome Document on Poverty

2. Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development



This should have been the EUIY SUMMIT!

"The former Director of the Rio+20 Secretariat Tariq Banuri, joining us in the civil society during his stay in Rio de Janeiro, said this should have been the summit of equity."

... on Poverty

- **4. We recognize that poverty eradication**, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are **the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.**
- **21. We are deeply concerned that** one in five people on this planet, or **over 1 billion people, still live in extreme poverty**, and that one in seven ? or 14 per cent ? is undernourished, while public health challenges, including pandemics and epidemics, remain omnipresent threats.
- **23. We reaffirm the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations**, including removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

... on Green Economy

(j) Enhance the welfare of indigenous peoples and their communities, other local and traditional communities and ethnic minorities, recognizing and supporting their identity, culture and interests, and avoid endangering their cultural heritage, practices and traditional knowledge, preserving and respecting non-market approaches that contribute to the eradication of poverty;

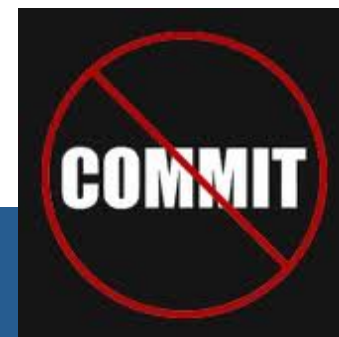
... on Green Economy

- (n) Address the concern about **inequalities** and promote **social inclusion**, ...
- (i) Contribute to **closing technology gaps** between developed and developing countries and reduce the technological dependence of developing countries using all appropriate measures; ..
- (g) Effectively **avoid unwarranted conditionalities** on official development assistance (ODA) and finance;
- (h) Not constitute a means of **arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade**, ...

... on Commitments

- **Renew commitment to sustainable development** and to ensuring the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations.
- **692 voluntary commitments** for sustainable development registered by governments, business, civil society groups, universities and others.

lip service & non-binding



Stakeholders in Rio+20

- Civil Society fragmented
- Business & Industry a different agenda
- Indigenous people & local communities – who represented them?
- Women – did we have the correct women's movements in the Rio+20 process?
- Youth – occupied by northern youth (mantra-no money for the south?)
- Trade Unions, Local Government – increased role
- Famers, Fishermen, ... - where were they?
- Environmental leaders – late entry, low voice, little noise, big ego's

A personal Analysis of Rio+20

“Rio+20 Summit was another catastrophic failure by the United Nations and global political leadership. In fact, Rio+20 never promised to inject life to a sustainable development agenda. On the contrary, it ridiculed forty years of serious attempts to place the world on a sustainable development path and tried to change the direction established twenty years ago through Agenda 21; these attempts were made by redefining sustainable development from a narrow green economy perspective, by drowning the calls for equity, by trying to slaughter the rights to sustainability, and by reducing the objective of global governance. The failure of Rio+20 deepens the challenges of a sustainable world order.”

(Uchita de Zoysa, A Post Rio+20 World: Planning Our Own Sustainable Futures after a Summit that Promised Nothing! - <http://sustainabilitytreaties.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/rio20-analysis-article-by-uchita-de-zoysa-media-release.pdf>)