



Stakeholder Forum

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Outcomes of Rio+20

Linking Post-Rio to Post-2015

Farooq Ullah
Executive Director

Presentation Highlights



1. “Was Rio+20 a success or a failure?”
2. Outcomes of Rio+20
3. Entry points post-Rio
4. The SDGs: Our hope for the future
5. Post2Post: Linking post-Rio to post-2015

Success or Failure?

- “Was Rio+20 a success or a failure?”
 - Simplistic and reductive
 - The answer is more nuanced and a more than superficial assessment is needed
 - Successes and failures must be itemised
 - Rio+20 was the starting point of various processes
 - Not an ending point
- Time will be the truest judge of Rio+20.
- But as we are sitting on a socio-ecological time bomb, time is not on our side.

Rio+20 Successes

- **Para 47** – Corporate sustainability reporting
- **Paras 56-74** – The Green Economy
- **Paras 84-86** – Create the high level political forum (HLPF)
- **Paras 88-90** – Strengthen UNEP
- **Para 121** – Right to water and sanitation
- **Para 226** – Adopt 10YFP on SCP
- **Paras 245-251** – Establish SDGs
- **Para 255** – Mobilisation of resources and finance
- **Paras 48, 76, 85, 88, 204 and 276** – Strengthen the science-policy interface
- **Paras 42-55** – Importance of participation and stakeholder engagement

Rio+20 Failures



- **Water and Sanitation** – Reaffirms commitments which are not universally agreed, rather than affirming the right itself.
- **Population** - The right to reproductive health was removed due to effective lobbying.
- **Subsidies** – Failure to develop an action plan for eliminating environmentally harmful subsidies (such as fossil fuels).
- **Implementation** – The entire section on the means of implementation (Section VI) remains weak and lacks specific measures and actions.
- **Environmental Limits** – Despite much discussion about environmental limits and planetary boundaries, there is no clear statement.
- **High Commissioner/Ombudsperson for Future Generations** – This was not an agreed outcome of Rio+20.
- **Green Economy** – Overall the green economy concept did not fare well, which no clear definition or principles.

Post-Rio+20 Entry Points



1. Intergovernmental SDG Open Working Group by ~2014 - §248
2. Call for integration with post-2015 through UN Task Team - §249
3. High level political forum (HLPF) by Sept 2013 - §84-86
4. Finance for SD options by 2014 - §256
5. Technology transfer recommendations by 2013 - §273
6. 10YFP on SCP adopted 2012 and to be operationalised - §226
7. SG report on Future Generation/Intergenerational Solidarity
8. Strengthen UNEP by 2013 (universal membership & secure funding) - §88
9. Use of oceans beyond national jurisdictions 2015 - §161 & 162
10. Beyond GDP - §38
11. Registry of voluntary commitments - §283
12. Green economy policies - §56-74
13. Integration of 3 dimensions of SD across UN - §93
14. SG's Zero Hunger challenge
15. Volunteers for SD

Positive Informal Process

- **GLOBE International's World Summit of Legislators** - 300 Legislators from 86 countries agreed that a formal process should be established to scrutinise and monitor governments on the delivery of the Rio agenda as well as supporting them to advance relevant legislation.
- **Peoples' Summit** - a parallel event used to provide a space for alternative discussions and ideas on sustainable development.
- **World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability** - a symposium with the corpus of environmental law and governance decision-makers to improve the effective implementation of environmental commitments, including MEAs.



Global Network of National Councils for Sustainable Development - a mechanism for the highest national level bodies on sustainable development to share best practice and collaborate on regional programmes.

- **Natural Capital Accounting** – a World Bank project saw over 50 countries and 86 private companies agree to integrate the value of natural assets such as clean air, clean water, forests and other ecosystems into decision making and national accounting processes.



People's Sustainability Treaties - a series of independent collective agreements produced by people in parallel to the official Rio+20 conference.

- **Planetary Boundaries** - a concept widely adopted by media, stakeholders and the United Nations on the 9 Earth system processes that need to be protected to ensure basic human rights.
- **Social Foundation** - Oxfam has added to the planetary boundaries by adding a social foundation into what is now called the Oxfam Doughnut. And by doing so the Doughnut defines the space between the boundary and the foundation as the safe and just operating space for humanity. The conceptual framework will enable an ongoing discussion and framing for the SDGs. See below for diagram of the Oxfam Doughnut.

SDGs: Back to Principles



- Universal
- CBDR
- Voluntary
- Comprehensive/integrated
- Linked to MDG
- Measurability
- Ownership and legitimacy
- Rights-Based
- Equity
- Focused on poverty elimination and marginalized groups
- Addressing root causes
- Within environmental limits
- Reducing conflict and corruption

Post-2015 Development Agenda



- Determining a new development agenda must be an urgent priority for the international community.
 - Further integrate development and environment agendas
- Must draw on learning from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and address multiple interlinked global challenges (e.g. climate change, resource scarcity, equity and resilience).
- Central to the post-2015 development agenda will be the SDGs.
- **One set of global development goals**

What is Needed?

- Development of a process for SDGs with full and fair stakeholder engagement
 - Must be action- oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable
 - Vertical alignment between global goals, national policies and ground-level implementation, e.g. urban SDGs
 - Rio+20 calls for integration of processes, but not one set of global goals
- Formal and informal multi-stakeholder engagement mechanisms
- Alignment of global goals to ground-level implementation and delivery
- Need to develop new monitoring and accountability measures
- A global programme of capacity building needed