



A Special Report on Selected Side Events at the
Second Round of 'Informal-Informal' Negotiations on the zero draft of
outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development
(UNCSD or Rio+20)

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Events convened on Wednesday, 25 April 2012

Building a Good Foundation: Developing the post-2015 development framework - what role for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Organized by Beyond 2015 and the Stakeholder Forum



Cristina Diez, ATD Fourth World, said that "business as usual" in the fight to end poverty is not option, as it won't have an impact on those living in extreme poverty.

Chaired by Corinne Woods, Director, UN Millennium Campaign, this event heard different perspectives from civil society, member States and the UN system on the inclusion of sustainability in the post-2015 development framework.

Jeannet Lingán, Stakeholder Forum, presented the findings of a research paper on the SDG discussion. She outlined principles highlighted as necessary for underpinning the framework of potential SDGs, including: universality; comprehensiveness; common but differentiated responsibilities; measurability; and legitimacy.

Cristina Diez, ATD Fourth World, called for a post-2015 development framework to take all persons into account and consider each person as having relevant knowledge. To increase participation, she urged for capacity building and creating a space of trust and security.

Jeffery Huffines, CIVICUS, speaking on behalf of the Beyond 2015 campaign and CIVICUS, called for learning from the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) process, and strong leadership from the UN for establishing SDGs.

Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum, lamented the gaps present in posited SDGs, but said that is still possible to leave Rio+20 with at least five negotiated SDGs.

Ed Barry, Sustainable World Initiative, suggested that resource sufficiency evaluations, which reflect demand and supply of natural resources, be carried out at national and global levels to avoid a global humanitarian crisis.

Flavia Pansieri, Executive Coordinator, UN Volunteers (UNV), said that the SDGs should not include quantitative targets so that the goals can be durable while ensuring sustainability is addressed.

Paula Caballero, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia, underscored that since all the SDGs should contribute to poverty reduction and poverty elimination, a specific SDG on this issue may be counter-productive.

In the ensuing discussion, participants addressed: the role of the private sector; integrating planetary boundaries into the SDGs; and concern that human rights principles are not being recognized.

More information:

<http://www.beyond2015.org/>
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Rio+20: Towards sustainable agriculture and a world free of hunger

Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

This event discussed sustainable agriculture and hunger elimination in the run-up to the Rio+20 Conference, with a view to informing the on-going negotiations on the zero draft outcome document for Rio+20.

Ambassador Herman Schaper, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UN, outlined the role of the Friends of Food and Nutrition Security, which aims to inform the Rio+20 negotiations on how to transform food insecurity towards a world free of hunger through sustainable agriculture.

Lila Hanitra Ratsifandrihamanana, FAO, called for: greater access to resources for women; improvement of agricultural practices; correct management of water resources in water scarce areas; and eradication of unsustainable fishing practices.

Pedro Medrano, Director, World Food Programme (WFP), stressed the role of women in the food value chain, increasing resilience, and applying smart agricultural practices.

Cheryl Morden, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), emphasized the importance of clear land rights and secure land tenure for small holder farmers, enabling them to organize themselves in addition to breaking down the segmented roles of men and women.

Emile Frison, Director General, Bioversity International, called for a different agricultural model that uses biodiversity as a foundation by, *inter alia*: increasing productivity through diversification; improving resilience to extreme events; reducing dependency on fossil fuels; and improving empowerment of small holder farmers.

Franklin Moore, Vice-Chair, Committee on World Food Security (CFS), presented CFS's ambition to bring about reforms that will produce a fundamental change in the international governance of food security and nutrition.

In the ensuing discussion, participants addressed: the role of the agro-chemical industry; access to the markets; agricultural subsidies that distort international markets and act as a barrier to launching food security; and the nexus between food production and water.



Amb. Herman Schaper, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UN, urged concrete actions to translate climate-smart agriculture from theory into practice.



Lila Hanitra Ratsifandrihamanana, FAO, warned that chronically hungry people are not resilient to shocks.



Franklin Moore, Vice-Chair, CFS, said we need new processes that gets all stakeholders and governments to the table.



L-R: Cheryl Morden, IFAD; Lila Hanitra Ratsifandrihamanana, FAO; Amb. Herman Schaper, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UN; Franklin Moore, Vice-Chair, CFS; Pedro Medrano, Director, WFP.

More information:
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Resource Efficient Cities as Drivers of Change

Organized by UN Environment Programme-Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE)

This event addressed the role of resource efficient cities in achieving sustainable development objectives and becoming leaders in establishing policies and practices to advance local action for global benefit.

Arab Hoballah, UNEP, called for greater focus on cities in the governance of sustainability, and said the entry point is not urban planning but rather resource efficiency and its link to economics, through the cost of inaction.

David Miller, former Mayor of Toronto, moderating the event, introduced the objectives of the discussion, including: mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production in long-term city planning; promoting innovative strategies and policies to enable more liveable and resource efficient cities; and providing a platform to share perspectives on resource efficiency.

Staffan Tillander, Swedish Ambassador for Rio+20 and Co-Chair of the Friends of Sustainable Cities, called for more coherence in the UN system to support cities in implementing change. He commended the many good initiatives at the city level, but said that these should be translated into more durable outcomes.

Stacy Lee, New York City Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability, recalled resource efficiency initiatives implemented by the city, that aims to direct infrastructure development away from manmade structures towards more diffused nature-based development.

Seth Schultz, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, warned that by 2050, over 70% of the world's population will live in cities. He applauded New York City's collaboration with cities across the world in leading the way towards sustainable development.

In the ensuing discussion, participants deliberated on, *inter alia*: open data and information sharing; policy barriers in urban planning; protection against resource depletion; the public procurement process; and retrofitting buildings. They also shared many examples of resource efficiency initiatives from cities around the world.



L-R: Seth Schultz, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group; David Miller, former Mayor of Toronto; Staffan Tillander, Swedish Ambassador for Rio+20 and Co-Chair of the Friends of Sustainable Cities; Stacy Lee, New York City Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability.



Staffan Tillander, Swedish Ambassador for Rio+20 and Co-Chair of the Friends of Sustainable Cities, outlined a range of economic instruments that can steer cities towards sustainable development.



David Miller, former Mayor of Toronto, called for integrating city infrastructure to improve energy consumption and reduce waste.



Arab Hoballah, UNEP, said UNEP aims to have a resource footprint of cities in the future.

More information:

<http://www.unep.org/dtie/>
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