

The Future we want to work on!

Sustainable Development Goals



(European) THINK PIECE FOR THE SDG-FRAMEWORK
FROM NGO POINT OF VIEW

*“We have to be radical in our analysis,
visionary in our strategies and
ambitious in our concrete steps.”*

Table of contents

Introduction	3
The European Union	4
European Civil Society	5
Role of Europe	8
Vision and Purpose of the SDG Post-2015 Framework	9
Framework Design	10
Contraction and Convergence	13
Annex	16

This publication is made possible thanks to the financial support of the Federal Public Planning Service for Sustainable Development (PODDO), Belgium.



Introduction

Last June more than 40,000 people – including parliamentarians, mayors, UN officials, chief executive officers and civil society leaders, as well as more than fifty heads of state and close to 500 ministers – attended the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, which made it one of the largest international conferences in recent history. Moreover, more than 700 commitments in the amount of \$513 billion was pledged to build a sustainable future, signalling a major step forward in achieving the future we want.

The event followed on from the Earth Summit in 1992, also held in Rio de Janeiro, where countries adopted Agenda 21 – a blueprint to rethink the economy, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection. Other important achievements included landmark treaties on climate change, biological diversity and desertification and an agreement on forest principles.

Agenda 21 recognised that “One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making.” For the first time the UN took very seriously civil society participation and defined nine sectors of society known as “Major Groups” as being critical to the achievement of sustainable development in cooperation with Member States: Women, Indigenous Peoples, Children & Youth, NGOs, Workers & Trade Unions, Local Authorities, Business and Industry, Science and Technology Community, and Farmers.

At Rio+20 last year, countries renewed their political commitment to the development of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction, agreed to establish a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and established a high-level political forum on sustainable development, which included provisions for enhancing the engagement and consultation of Major Groups and other key stakeholders. Rio+20 did not elaborate specific goals but stated that the SDGs should be limited in number, aspirational and easy to communicate. The goals should address in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

The UN General Assembly subsequently created Open Working Groups that will propose ideas for the SDGs to become a part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda to replace the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the UN in 2000 to reduce poverty in half by 2015. The Major Groups and other stakeholders from around the world have been invited to participate in the deliberations of the Open Working Group to offer their recommendations for the SDGs and Post-2015 Development Framework based on the principles of sustainable development and lessons learned from the MDGs process. This think piece is one of the concrete inputs from NGOs.

The European Union

The European Commission did their own effort in presenting a joint communication on the SDG/beyond 2015 issue:

According to the joint communication of DG ENV and DG DEV on SDG/Post2015 the framework should:

- Integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social, environmental building on the work for elaborating the SDGs, aiming at poverty eradication and sustainable development.

And, continuing the EC-paper, the framework should cover, in an integrated fashion:

- Basic human development,
- Drivers for sustainable and inclusive growth and development that are necessary for structural transformation of the economy, needed to ensure the creation of productive capacities and employment and the transition to an inclusive green economy capable of addressing climate challenges,
- Sustainable management of natural resources.

The framework should also address justice, equality and equity, capturing issues relating to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as the empowerment of women and gender equality, which are vital for inclusive and sustainable development, as well as important values in their own right.¹



At the presentation of this communication the European Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik said: *“Efforts to end poverty have to go hand-in-hand with sustainable development. Otherwise we will simply not be successful. This is why today’s Communication proposes a single, coherent framework to offer a decent life for all by 2030.”*



European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, said: *“Eradicating extreme poverty across the globe in a single generation is within reach. It is not a question of resources, but rather of having the political will and the right framework. The next two years will be critical for the international community to prove the ambition is there. The EU is determined to play a decisive role and today’s proposal is a first step in this direction.”*

European *Civil* Society

ANPED, the international NGO-network together with CIDSE and EEB took the initiative to start a debate with several networks in Europe working on development and environmental issues. The main goal was to have a clearer picture and joint strategy on how to link and eventually merge the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) process with the Beyond 2015 process (Millennium Development Goals MDGs). As both processes are being followed up in two more or less different circuits, ENV/SD and DEV, constant communication is important between each other on one hand, and with other relevant/(interested) networks (health, finance, etc.) on the other hand to be on line with a participatory, inclusive and relevant approach also at this phase.

The MDGs have proved an important element towards building international/global coordination capacity between states and other developmental actors. They have achieved to bring together public, private and political support for global poverty reduction and provided an effective tool to stimulate the production of new poverty-related data and additional aid commitments. In some countries it provided tools for civil society and other development actors to participate more effectively. It is important that the post-2015 process - both in its design and its implementation - builds on this momentum to further strengthen the voice of civil society organisations at all levels (Green et al., 2012).

In a number of countries, some of the goals were made explicit in national development policies and they were often the reference point for donor agreements with partner countries. A 2008 study of 22 Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) showed that low-income country governments consistently referenced the MDG's, but were selective and did not always include timelines or action plans for meeting the MDGs target.² This suggests that some governments are using the MDGs as planning and communications tools or as a common language with which to talk to donors - not necessarily that they are changing their behaviour as a result.³ Progress could be measured, albeit in an overly narrow manner, on the basis of the agreed indicators.

However, some of the strengths of the MDG framework also proved to be risks and weaknesses. For example, the narrow focus on a number of social issues and the fact that progress in these fields has been measured by even narrower indicators has led to only late inclusion, undervaluation or even total omission of some important aspects of development such as peace and conflict, freedom from violence, governance and anti-corruption, decent work and social protection, uneven population growth, climate change adaptation etc. This gap was filled by some nations by adjusting the MDGs. Green et al (2012) note that some of the more developing country governments have consistently 'customised' the MDGs, adapting them to national realities and priorities and including them in national planning documents. A UNDP study of 30 countries found that 10 had added or modified goals. Thus, for example, Albania, Iraq and Mongolia had added a goal on good governance and/or fighting corruption. Armenia, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan had modified MDG 2 (education) to include eight or nine years' schooling for all children. And Colombia and Mongolia had added specific infectious diseases to MDG 6 (tackling HIV and AIDS, malaria, and other diseases). Fifteen countries had added, expanded or modified targets, and no fewer than 25 had added, expanded or modified indicators - for example, to reflect national poverty lines.

Certainly, the MDGs failed to address the root causes of poverty and of the lack of progress on realising human rights. There is an inherent danger in the 'MDG approach', in that it reduces 'development' to progress on some of the basic needs and development policy to development assistance to the most poor and problematic countries. So one could argue, as has Jan Vandemoortele, that the MDGs "represent a reductionist view of development" or an oversimplification.⁴ As Gandhi said: "The Earth has enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed."

That will be one of the biggest challenges, how to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are addressing the root causes of poverty and environmental degradation, the interlinkages between both and try to achieve the needed paradigm shift crucial to build real sustainable societies worldwide. Further, the main impact of the MDGs was on the aid system, while any post-2015 arrangement have to be designed to influence government⁵ and behaviour.

The SDGs should go beyond where the MDG are criticised, making use of all the available knowledge to force the systemic change and fundamental transition agenda. The business as usual is not an option, and incremental changes are not enough, as the urgency to act is high. The international council of science in 2010 stated "Humanity has reached a point in history at which a prerequisite for development-the continued functioning of the Earth system as we know it- is at risk."⁶ The financial, social and environmental cost of not acting are potentially huge. Environmental damage and biodiversity loss is spectacular. A considerable increase in inequality has also been noted over the last 10-15 years, with the marginalised and disadvantaged falling still further behind and the gaps between the rich few and the poorer masses widening dramatically.

Material and financial flows are mostly going from developing countries, rich in natural resources, to the industrialised world to cover their material needs. Not only extracting the resources, but also often leaving the environmental damage, poisoning the ground, erosion, floods, chemical and nuclear waste, landgrabbing, ..., which on their turn causes social conflicts and corruption.

We see four main points to be integrated in the future SDGs:

1. The shift for a new development paradigm: structural change and inclusive for all sectors of society, not only the easiest to reach.
2. Holistic and coherent approach: linking development and environment, in analyses and in governance policies.
3. Fully and effective participation of civil society at all levels to ensure that leaders take the right decisions, that organisations (public and private) support and control the change and that the citizens participate to achieve democratic ownership and policies.
4. Rights based approach in a common based economy (equality and recognising limits of planet and people) and with appropriate means to check and demand the accountability of all stakeholders.

Role of Europe

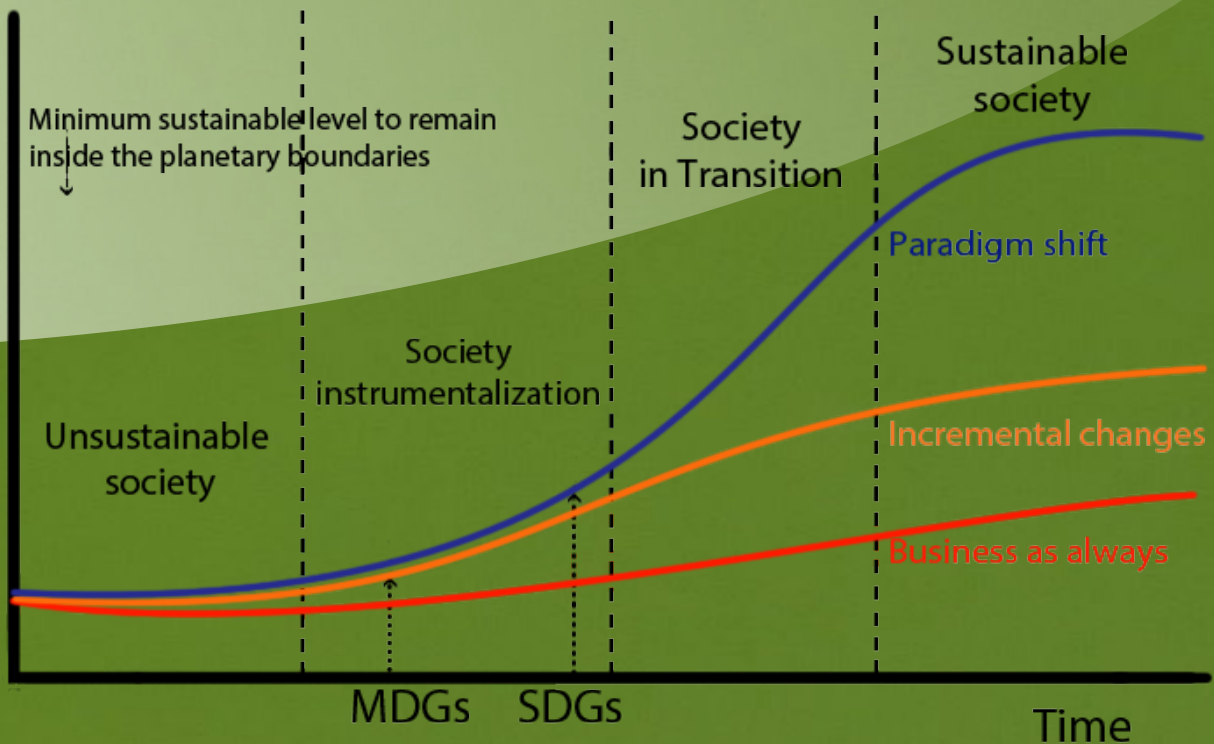
Climate change, growing inequality, food insecurity, demographic change, resource constraints, an unsustainable growth, consumption and production model and the financial and economic crises pose complex and interrelated challenges that must be addressed in order to realise the human and environmental well-being and development goals that have been enshrined in the Agenda 21, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and several CSD outcomes. Based on the common but differentiated responsibilities Europe has a huge role to play. In the old development paradigm we consider international cooperation as the obligation of the richer countries to do financial transfers to help the disadvantaged groups in the South. But if we analyse better the global financial and material flows we see that those are going from South to North, meaning that in our case, Europe is maintaining their lifestyles on the account of the Global South. We can call this “reversed development aid”. This has to stop immediately as we can not continue accumulating our ecological and historical debt, by using the natural resources of other countries and above that leave the damage of the exploitation behind. Admitting that the increasing poverty is an active process caused by the current economic system has to lead us to other development strategies than purely transfers of money. Redistribution of wealth is a key objective. The ecological footprint of Europe is much higher than the so-called ‘fair share’. Despite good intentions of several European policies, we still do not manage to reduce our footprint in absolute amounts. It is in this context and analysis that the SDG, and the role for Europe, has to be designed. Overall European policies and long term strategies have to fit into these goals in a coherent way.



VISION AND PURPOSE OF THE SDG POST-2015 FRAMEWORK

We need: A shared vision of just, equitable and sustainable societies in harmony with nature in which every person can realise their human rights, based on common responsibilities, well-being and a life free from poverty.

The purpose of the framework would therefore be to establish a new global consensus and commitment to achieve this vision and set out the road-map regarding how its objectives will be reached. The framework must enable people to hold world leaders to account for the changes they have committed to.



Framework Design

We recognise that the design of a future framework is extremely challenging since there is such a wide variety of issues that could merit inclusion and many are interdependent. We urge European leaders to show political will, vision and courage to identify and tackle the key challenges faced by the world today, via their root causes, in a comprehensive manner.

There are already a lot of agreed documents produced during the last 20 years of CSD-meetings. Most of them also referring to existing UN-agreements, like on: gender-issues, food sovereignty, biodiversity, climate change, human rights, indigenous rights, etc. We don't have to start from scratch.

Some examples of UN-agreements, supporting the SD agenda:

- **Convention on Biological Diversity** - At least halve and, where feasible, bring close to zero the rate of loss of natural habitats, including forests; Establish a conservation target of 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of marine and coastal areas; Restore at least 15% of degraded areas through conservation and restoration activities; Make special efforts to reduce the pressures faced by coral reefs.⁷

- **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** - The Convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field..."⁸

- **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** - To take all necessary measures to implement the rights of the planet's 370 million indigenous people indigenous peoples in accordance with international human rights instruments without discrimination.⁹

- **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** - Conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.¹⁰

- **Kyoto Protocol** - The objective is to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5% in comparison to the base year of 1990, during the commitment period from 2008 to 2012.¹¹

- **Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer** - It enables a reduction of more than 90% in the production and the consumption of substances that deplete the ozone layer calculated in terms of the ODP (ozone depletion potential).¹²

- **Biological Weapons Convention** - It prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition or retention of microbial or other biological agents of types and in quantities not justified for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes. ¹³

- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty** – To ban any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion; A ban on the production of fissile material for anything other than verified peaceful use. ¹⁴

- And so many more...


But the most important agreements in relation to explicitly Sustainable Development are two transversal documents: I) the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and II) Agenda 21: an action plan focused on social, economical and ecological problems.

The Brundtland report has been the basic ground for both, providing also what today is the most common definition of SD. Some of the most important elements to recall from the Brundtland report in preparing the SDG's proposal are that:

- The earth system carrying capacity is limited: the concept of development does imply limits- not absolute limits but limitations imposed by the present state of technology and social organization on environmental resources and the ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activities. This is crucial, since science reports that with increasing certainty that our human society is at the border of our planetary boundaries. ¹⁵

- The fact that poverty and environment are two independent determinants means that if one fails the other will as well. Poverty is not an evil in itself, but sustainable development requires meeting the basic needs of all and extending to all the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations for a better life. A world in which poverty is endemic will always be prone to ecological and other catastrophes. In Rio+20 the final message reaffirm this statement.

- The need to distribute fairly our natural resources inside and among nations: equity among and inside nations: meeting essential needs requires not only a new era of economic development for nations in which the majority are poor, but an assurance that those poor get



their fair share of the resources required to sustain their well-being. A right based approach and based on justice, is what sustainable development aims for.

- The need to improve governance on one hand, and enable the wide participation of society on the other hand: equity would be aided by political systems that secure effective citizens participations in decision making and by greater democracy in international decision making.

- Structural change in the way we live, explode and use our natural resources. lifestyle: Sustainable global development requires that those who are more affluent adopt lifestyles within the planet's ecological means - in their use of energy, for example by accepting sufficiency strategies.

• Demographic management to fit in the limited earth system: Further, rapidly growing populations can increase the pressure on resources and slow any rise in living standards; thus sustainable development can only be pursued if population size and growth are in harmony with the changing productive potential of the ecosystem.

Besides the push for more sustainability it is also very important to stop immediately all kind of trends and policies that actually support the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. We need to know where the main blockers are in our struggle to more sustainability and equity in the world. It is clear that our actual economic system has proven not to be the appropriate one for achieving sustainable development worldwide. A fundamental shift is necessary.

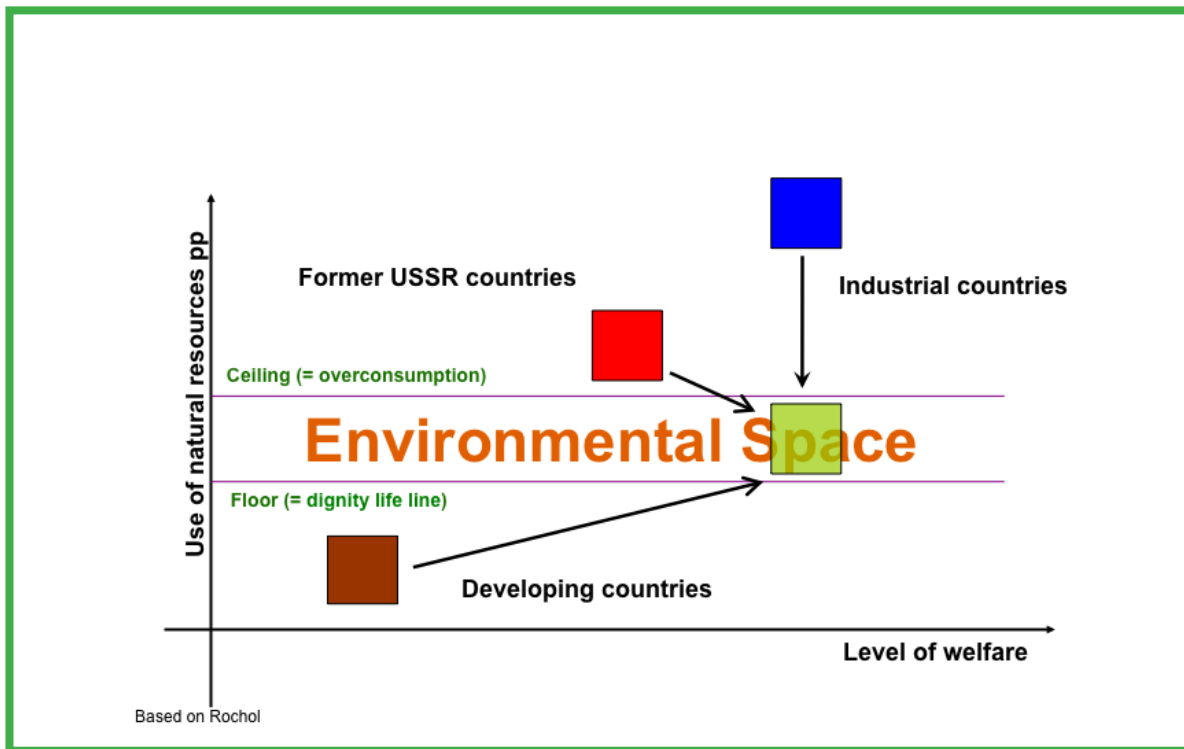
One of the key challenges faced today is the definition of "life quality", since this involves not only the economical dimension but also elements of well being (for example human rights). So in order to effectively evaluate whether a country has achieved its proposed/desired life quality depends on a complex combination of economical and social values together and not in isolation. Unfortunately, the idea that well-being and development equal to a continually greater acquisition of material possessions and growing consumption is now globally widespread. This is fuelled by both governments and the private sector: governments because the income of their country is measured by GDP, and they are seen to be failing if this does not increase, and the private sector because their *raison d'être* is continually rising profit, for which it needs to produce and sell ever more, while cutting costs wherever possible, including through creating "junk jobs". The role of international institutions in developing and perpetuating this model should also be questioned. We have reached a stage today at which possession of material goods is equated with a sense of well-being or prosperity.

Such an emphasis on permanent GDP growth and possession of material goods is, however, not only entirely unsustainable but ultimately also self-destructive, both in economic and environmental terms.

When basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more. However, in order to bring the standards of living of peoples across the world closer together, the poorest within poor countries must be empowered and enabled to produce and consume more until equity/equilibrium is achieved. For this equation to work, overconsumption has to be eradicated in rich countries and rich fractions in poor countries.

Further more, it is of the highest importance that the overconsumption model is NOT transferred/adopted/introduced in the life style of emerging economies. It is simply no longer credible to imagine that richer countries can continue their current patterns, whilst also encouraging others to increase consumption and growth.

Contraction and convergence



Our economic system is actually based on debts. Most of our money and financial transactions are virtual. We need to bring back the economy into a real economy. One of the options is a common-based-economy, bringing the economic system also back within the limits of the planet's resources.

What has become patently clear is that business as usual is not an option.

Thus, the starting point of the SDG/post-2015 framework must be in respect of the original definition of Sustainable Development (Brundtland Report) :

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

According to the same report, the above definition contains within it two key concepts:

"The concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs."

In short, the SDGs are not about new commitments, but about ambitious means and targets and strong decision/will to fulfil/implement what has been already since 1992 agreed among nation leaders.

Accordingly, the framework should set out the conditions that need to be put in place to overcome the obstacles people face in participating fully in society in a satisfying way. These obstacles are rooted in political, legal, social, economic, and other structures starting at the local level and extending up to the international level. The adverse effects of these obstacles are compounded by the accelerated impacts of environmental degradation, increasing risks because of climate change, the demographic crisis and mounting social inequality and ecological debt that has arisen out of an ineffective paradigm of growth and development. While these obstacles are experienced across cultures, economies and geographical territories and include, for example, corruption, non-transparent decision-making, lack of accountability of duty-bearers, gender inequality etc., their exact nature and extent differ depending on the circumstances.

In order to develop the future SDGs for the achievement of sustainable societies, where wellbeing and dignity of all is secured, lifestyles within the limits of the ecological capital are established, equality is the norm and life in all its forms and expressions is treated with respect, we propose that the SDG/post-2015 framework will be structured as follows:

1 An overarching, global consensus stating the vision of sustainable development and the values that should guide policies and actions outlined in the framework. This would be similar in style to the Earth Charter, and reflected in its entirety of all sustainable development goals. This shared vision can be inspired by already agreed official international documents, principles and targets (UNDESA, FAO, WHO, Habitat, CBD, ..). Agreed concepts like common-but-differentiated responsibilities, subsidiarity principles, precaution principle, polluter pays principle, right to food and access to basic needs must be integrated. The shared vision also has to be constructed on evidence based reports on planetary boundaries, carrying capacity of the earth, systemic change, transition management, and of course on civil society methodologies, like human rights based approach, redistribution of wealth, material flows and fair sharing of ecological footprint.

2 There need to exist mechanisms for demanding the accountability of progress made: For all goals we need clear and bold targets, timetables and review mechanisms. Every 3 years countries have to explain what they did, how they did it, and with what results. On the other hand, a bottom up citizen's accountability has to be recognised, like ombudsperson for future generations, peer reviews, monitoring reporting. Clear deadlines must be set for such mechanisms and systems of appeal established when all other avenues of accountability have been exhausted.

3 Democratic governance and implementation: all countries agreed already on defining a National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD). In this NSSD the SDGs can be integrated as main points of action, together with the country specific targets. The by the Worldbank imposed PRSPs (Poverty Reduction Strategy Plans) can be shifted into the NSSDs. Especially because the PRSP are too export oriented, while the NSSD have more attention for own food and resource sovereignty. The NSSD have to be the overall framework where other strategy plans and roadmaps have to fit in. Based on the subsidiary principle regional and local governments have to define where their role and responsibilities lay.

4 Sources of finances for the SDGs has to be clear from the start: just as the integration of the SDGs in overall policy goals (NSSDs), the national budgets for achieving those goals has to be defined on national levels. And all budgets that go against those goals have to be cut. Besides the integration in the national budgets for realising their own policy strategies, the agreed 0,7% GDP for ODA can be directed for the SDGs in partner countries. Nevertheless there will be need for further investments to be made. For that additional and alternative mechanisms have to be applied, like a global Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), CO2 tax, footprint tax, ...

5 Coherence checks with other (inter)national policies and institutions: Sustainable Development needs a paradigm shift and most of existing policy strategies and institutional bodies are still in the old paradigm of supporting unlimited growth, large scale, intensive and global production schemes, privatisation of the commons, creating a debt based economy. For that reason it is crucial that while implementing the SDGs there is a continuous coherence check with related internal policies, like the European 2020, Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), but also with the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the impacts of the IFIs. Together with the 3-yearly reviews of the SDGs, we need to detect what kind of reforms are needed to get liberated of the potential blockers coming from the other institutions and policies.

6 Alternative indicators: debates on the beyond GDP indicators are growing. A lot of knowledge and indicators already exist. Together with the holistic and interlinking approach of Sustainable Development, a set of indicators (environment, equity, well being, etc.) has to be developed to give the best display of the current situation. No need to invent new ones, but combine several existing ones to one overarching dashboard. As the MDGs have shown, data collection can be vastly improved and broadened as a positive outcome of the framework. Process indicators on levels of participation and accountability processes should be included.

7 Transparency and access to information and active participation: One of the key drawbacks of the MDGs – both in terms of the process of designing the framework and its outcomes- was the total lack of empowerment and involvement of the actors concerned. Transparency where and when decisions are made and active participation in the whole process is crucial for the concrete implementation of the future goals. On the different levels, (inter)national, regional and local, the appropriate structures must be there for all stakeholders to be informed and involved.

8 A set of global goals challenging the status quo and addressing the key global challenges: In view of the degree of globalisation today, with ever closer interrelationships between economies and people and a growing number of universal challenges which require international cooperation, cross-border action and policy coordination, a global framework is undoubtedly needed. This must inevitably therefore be made up of a series of global goals. To our mind, if the framework is to transform business as usual, while abiding by the principles we mentioned, then these global goals must be aspirational in nature and must apply to all people in all countries. Furthermore, all countries will be required to contribute to make progress on each goal in their own context (taking into consideration the fact of different starting points). Those will be expressed in the National Strategies on Sustainable Development (NSSD).

ANNEX

Text on *SDG* in Rio+20

Outcome document *The Future we want*

B. Sustainable development goals

245. We underscore that the Millennium Development Goals are a useful tool in focusing achievement of specific development gains as part of a broad development vision and framework for the development activities of the United Nations, for national priority-setting and for mobilization of stakeholders and resources towards common goals. We therefore remain firmly committed to their full and timely achievement.

246. We recognize that the development of goals could also be useful for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. We further recognize the importance and utility of a set of sustainable development goals, based on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which fully respect all the Rio Principles, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities, are consistent with international law, build upon commitments already made, and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the present outcome document. The goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages. They should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, thus contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and serving as a driver for implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system as a whole. The development of these goals should not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

247. We also underscore that sustainable development goals should be action oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We also recognize that the goals should address and be focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development, being guided by the present outcome document. Governments should drive implementation with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

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.

249. The process needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda. The initial input to the work of the working group will be provided by the Secretary-General, in consultation with national Governments. In order to provide technical support to the process and to the work of the working group, we request the Secretary-General to ensure all necessary input and support to this work from the United Nations system, including through establishing an inter-agency technical support team and expert panels, as needed, drawing on all relevant expert advice. Reports on the progress of work will be made regularly to the General Assembly.

250. We recognize that progress towards the achievement of the goals needs to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development.

251. We recognize that there is a need for global, integrated and scientifically based information on sustainable development. In this regard, we request the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support the regional economic commissions in collecting and compiling national inputs in order to inform this global effort. We further commit to mobilizing financial resources and capacity-building, particularly for developing countries, to achieve this endeavour.

FOOTNOTES

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/2013-02-22_communication_a_decent_life_for_all_post_2015_en.pdf

² Fukuda-Parr 2008.

³ Green D. et al. 2012. How can a Post-2015 agreement drive real change? Revised edition. Oxfam discussion papers, Nov. 2012. <http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/dp-politics-post-2015-mdgs-revised-211112-en.pdf>.

⁴ If not the MDGs, then what?, Jan Vandemoortele, Third World Quarterly, Volume 32, Issue 1, 2011

⁵ Green D. et al. 2012. How can a Post-2015 agreement drive real change? Revised edition. Oxfam discussion papers, Nov. 2012. <http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/dp-politics-post-2015-mdgs-revised-211112-en.pdf>.

⁶ Gaffney, O. et al. 2010. Interconnected risks and solutions for a planet under pressure (RIO+ 20 Policy brief 5). <http://www.icsu.org/rio20/policy-briefs/interconnected-issues-brief>

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

⁸ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

⁹ <http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/DeclarationontheRightsofIndigenousPeoples.aspx>

¹⁰ <http://www.fao.org/Ag/cgrfa/itpgr.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.taskforcecee.com/kyoto-protocol>

¹² <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/chemikalien/01405/01409/index.html?lang=en>

¹³ http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/foreign_and_security_policy/cfsp_and_esdp_implementation/l33270_en.htm

¹⁴ <http://www.nti.org/treaties-and-regimes/comprehensive-nuclear-test-ban-treaty-ctbt/>

¹⁵ Rockstrom J. et al. 2009. A safe operating space for humanity. Nature 461: 472-475.

In partnership with:

EEB



CIDSE



This publication is based on the 'Putting people and Planet first' report of the Task Force of the Post-2015 (<http://www.concordeurope.org/234-report-putting-people-and-planet-first-concord-beyond2015-tf>) campaign and on a joint meeting with: ANPED, CIDSE, EEB, WWF, CONCORD, Fair Trade Organization (FTO), Save the Children, Friend of the Earth Europe,

Edited by: Leida Rijnhout, Yblin Roman Escobar (ANPED)

Layout Design: Livia Vajdová, Frank Michael Juda

