

27th Informal Working Breakfast on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Sustainable development and climate action: Interlinkages between post-2015 and UNFCCC processes

Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community and the International Movement ATD Fourth World
28 July 2015

The informal meeting brought together a diverse group of stakeholders¹ to discuss the twin challenge of tackling climate change while ensuring sustainable development for all.

General

- It was reiterated that climate change and sustainable development must be inter-connected and complementary.
- The interlinkage was described as “twin-processes” and “parallel tracks” to show that both processes are moving towards the same end goal of sustainable development.
- There were several references made to various outcome documents and process documents bringing attention to the lack of interconnectedness of climate change and sustainable development
 - Surprisingly, the Financing for Development Conference outcome document showed the strongest mention of the connectedness of development and climate change
 - However, 12/17 goals of the SDG have strong climate change targets serving to highlight the fact that climate change is the way to push for sustainable development
- There will be no separate climate financing and development financing
 - Additional financing will come from the private sector and civil society
- We are beginning to see that climate change processes are being included in sustainable development (particularly in the Paris Draft agreement)
 - Attention brought to the fact that so far there has been no call for integrated/ complementary implementation of the twin process
 - This is a crucial time for state leaders and civil society to drive the call at the post-2015 summit as this will be the last opportunity where the world’s leaders will be gathered
- There needs to be a collective message sent to the climate change negotiations in Paris calling for an ambitious agenda to be set
- This is an important year because in addition to the SDGs and climate change the Montreal protocol and a series of other activities also ultimately come under one agenda
- The post-2015 sustainable development agenda and the climate action agenda are quite different
 - SDGs are being driven by member states with strong support from civil society
 - Eradicating poverty and creating a more inclusive and sustainable world
 - Climate agreement is a treaty being driven by governments
 - Seeks to put the world on a low-carbon and a climate resilient path
 - While they both have different focuses they ultimately have the same overarching agenda which is the sustainable development agenda
 - How do we bring them together?
- From the climate perspective and looking towards sustainable development
 - Climate change is the smart investment when it comes to economic development, energy security and health
 - Moral issue- preserving the planet and protecting the poor
 - More and more religious leaders are talking about these issues more regularly
- The climate process is made up of 2 documents which help to produce a positive atmosphere
 - Negotiation of the agreement and the Action agenda

¹ Permanent Missions: Australia, Benin, Colombia, Denmark, France, International Organization of la Francophonie to the UN, Ireland, Japan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sweden. Representatives from UN: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Executive Office of the Secretary General, Secretary-General’s Climate Change Support Team, United Nations Department of Public Information, UNEP, UN Women, World Bank Group. Non-governmental organizations: Bahá'í International Community, Center for Economic and Social Rights, CIVICUS, Climate Action Network, Congregation of Notre Dame, Global Policy Forum, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Presentation Association, Medical Mission Sisters, Regions Refocus 2015, Soroptimist International, UNANIMA International, Worldwide Fund for Nature.

- Both of these documents need to be complementary rather than a replacement or a supplement to the other
- Paris Conference from Secretary General's point of view
 - The criteria for a successful COP21 agreement according to the Secretary General's office is
 - Predictability and Durability- that the agreements will last for the next 10-15yrs
 - Flexibility- as technology changes and social organizers change, the agreement can stay relevant
 - Solidarity- with the poor and vulnerable
 - Credibility-promises made must be delivered and in a measureable and transparent way
 - Viability- if it does not put on the path to 2 degrees of warming then we have failed
 - Optimistic that there will be an agreement at the Paris conference
 - What happens when we have to implement the climate agenda with the post-2015 agenda?
 - Convergence at the level of implementation
 - Mixing of development and climate financing is the right way to go because at the end of the day there is only 1 development agenda
- Role of the UN in implementation
 - Crucial to support Member States to implement the development agenda in a coherent way
 - Internal coordination and facilitation
 - Financing is key
 - Significant increases of resources (both domestic and international)
 - The agreements that have been made have to be kept
 - \$100 billion and 0.7% of GDP
 - Domestic mobilization of resources will be key
- Role of Civil Society
 - C.S. will play an important role in putting pressure on governments to deliver
 - C.S. amplifies the moral dimensions
 - It has strong links to the community where the action takes place so they can experiment and see what works and come up with real solutions and action on the ground
 - Can push for the integration
- Need to look at climate differently
 - It is no longer a future problem but a current problem that will be augmented in the future
 - It is not just an environmental problem also an economic and development problem
- WWF and CARE International have released a report on the twin tracks of climate change and sustainable development and how UNFCCC and post-2015 complement each other
 - The twin tracks refers to how the 2 processes work in tandem
 - Financing will hold the 2 tracks together
 - Policy coherence- policies need to be complementary

Discussion points

- This is an historical agreement on highlighting the links between climate change and post-2015
 - Agreements on carbon pricing
 - Strong language phasing out fossil fuels
 - Merging of the climate and development financing
- What do we do when member states and governments "forget" the agreements that have been made in the past (reference to the Green Climate Fund and ODA)
- Partnerships between organizations that are focused on different areas (climate vs. development) working together is hugely important for pushing forward the twin processes
- How accepted will these documents be
 - Climate change is not seen as a threat at the ground level and particularly in development in developing countries

Technical issues on the implementation

- Reporting to the UNFCCC and SDGs
 - How do we integrate the 2 processes? Will they overlap or will there be separate agendas?
- Finance
 - The size of the collective parts of financing is more important than the sources of the funding
- Development Bank policies need to be reshaped
- How do we reconcile urgency to address climate change while addressing the transition in a just and equitable way
- Finding alternative ways to drive development which is also climate change resilient

- Civil society has the opportunity to really contribute in this arena