Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations
Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
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BACKGROUND PAPER ON
PROGRESS AND GAPS IN IMPLEMENTING THE OUTCOMES OF
MAJOR SUMMITS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Summary

The paper reviews the global commitments on sustainable development, as adopted in the outcomes of major international summits and conferences related to sustainable development since 1992. Using a cross-sectoral and thematic approach, the paper highlights the various global agreements that identify sustainable development among their stated goals, and discusses the progress made and the gaps in implementation in achieving this goal at the global and the Arab regional levels.

The paper focuses on international commitments related to the following areas: poverty eradication and employment creation, human rights, gender and youth, trade liberalization, technology transfer, financing for development, capacity building, and the environment.

The paper demonstrates that sustainable development has been mainstreamed as an overarching objective in a range of global summits. However, it concludes with the finding that while greater inter-linkages between the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development have started to materialize, the implementation of these commitments remains weak. The paper then proposes areas of action at the international level and by developed and developing countries for meeting these commitments, making specific reference to the Arab countries, as a means to advance progress towards sustainable development.
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I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of sustainable development gained currency following the release of the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (a.k.a. the Brundtland Commission) entitled *Our Common Future* in 1987. The United Nations General Assembly welcomed the report and recognized the role of the Commission “in revitalizing and reorienting discussions and deliberations on environment and development and in enhancing the understanding of the causes of present environmental and development problems, as well as in demonstrating the ways in which they transcend institutional frontiers and in opening new perspectives on the interrelationship between environment and development as a guide to the future.”

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**Box 1. Agenda 21**

**Section I - Social and economic dimensions**

International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies; combating poverty; changing consumption patterns; demographic dynamics and sustainability; protecting and promoting human health conditions; promoting sustainable human settlement development; and, integrating environment and development in decision making.

**Section II - Conservation and management of resources for development**

Protection of the atmosphere; integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources; combating deforestation; managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought; managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development; promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development; conservation of biological diversity; environmentally sound management of biotechnology; protection of oceans and all kinds of seas; protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources, application of integrated approach to the development, management and use of water resources; environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals; environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes; environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage related issues; safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes.

**Section III – Strengthening the role of major groups**

Preamble, global action for women towards sustainable and equitable growth; children and youth in sustainable development; recognizing the role of indigenous people and their communities; strengthening the role of NGOs; local authorities initiatives in support of Agenda 21; strengthening the role of workers and trade unions; strengthening the role of business and industry; scientific and technological community; and, strengthening the role of farmers.

**Section IV – Means of implementation**

Financial resources and mechanisms; transfer of environmentally sound technology; science for sustainable development; promoting education, public awareness and training; national mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity building in developing countries; international institutional arrangements; international legal instruments; information for decision-making.

The report set the stage for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also called the “Earth Summit”, in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The summit highlighted the inter-linkages between the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development and fostered international commitment in support of this new development paradigm. The resulting *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* and the outcome document, *Agenda 21*, laid out an overarching and ambitious plan to achieve sustainable development that called for concerted action at

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the global, regional, national and local levels by a broad range of stakeholder groups. The Rio Declaration proclaims 27 principles that have guided international commitments on sustainable development for nearly twenty years. Box 1 lists the chapters and range of issues included in Agenda 21. *A Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21* was subsequently adopted in 1997.\(^3\)

**Box 2. Johannesburg Plan of Implementation**

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A ten-year review of Agenda 21 was undertaken by heads of state at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002. The summit aimed at examining progress made since 1992 and at reinvigorating global commitment for sustainable development. The *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development* and the *Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development* (a.k.a., Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPoI)) outcome document provide a framework for action by the global community. The plan is a cross-cutting one and underscores the importance of a holistic view towards sustainable development that necessitates the involvement of all stakeholders for its implementation. To this end, the Plan includes targets and timelines to support the achievement of articulated commitments, which are to be realized through government action, partnerships, initiatives and other means of implementation. These commitments address a range of issues that are presented in the eleven chapters that comprise the JPoI (see Box 2).

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The commitments undertaken in the Johannesburg Declaration and the JPoI largely echo the goals articulated in the Millennium Declaration (2000)\textsuperscript{5} and the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002).\textsuperscript{6} These commitments are elaborated thematically in Section III below. Additionally, the Declaration highlights that conditions worldwide pose significant threats to sustainable development, which cannot be achieved unless a host of issues are addressed, including “chronic hunger; malnutrition; foreign occupation; armed conflict; illicit drug problems; organized crime; corruption; natural disasters; illicit arms trafficking; trafficking in persons; terrorism; intolerance and incitement to racial, ethnic, religious and other hatreds; xenophobia; and endemic, communicable and chronic diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.”\textsuperscript{7} It also affirms governments are “committed to ensuring that women’s empowerment, emancipation and gender equality are integrated in all the activities encompassed within Agenda 21, the Millennium development goals\textsuperscript{8} and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit.”\textsuperscript{9} Both outcome documents make substantial reference to multilateralism as the pathway towards sustainable development, as well as the need to meet agreed commitments in order to achieve progress towards sustainable development.

**II. GLOBAL COMMITMENTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM MAJOR SUMMITS**

The achievement of sustainable development is articulated as a central development objective in a wide range of global summits that focus on the economic, social and/or environmental pillars of sustainable development, as shown in table 1. The table provides a synopsis of references made to sustainable development in the outcome documents of selected major international summits, conferences and associated conventions that have taken place since the Earth Summit in 1992. Annex 1 subsequently classifies the commitments made on key issues identified in each of these international summits and conventions that relate to sustainable development.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Summit title, (place, time), and symbol of outcome document</th>
<th>Explicit Linkage of Summit Objective to Sustainable Development</th>
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<tr>
<td>Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992)</td>
<td>1.1 We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being. However, integration of environment and development concerns and greater attention to them will lead to the fulfillment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future. No nation can achieve this on its own; but together we can – in a global partnership for sustainable development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC/INFORMAL/84), 1992</td>
<td>Article III Principles para 4. The Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development. Policies and measures to protect the climate system against human-induced change should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programmes, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change.</td>
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\textsuperscript{5} United Nations Millennium Declaration, United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/55/2 of 18 September 2000.

\textsuperscript{6} Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chapter 1, resolution 1, annex.

\textsuperscript{7} Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, article 19.

\textsuperscript{8} Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, article 20.
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<td>Earth Summit (Rio de Janerio, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992)</td>
<td>Article 8 In-situ Conservation (e). Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas</td>
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<td>Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992</td>
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<td>World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 14-25 June 1993)</td>
<td>20. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the inherent dignity and the unique contribution of indigenous people to the development and plurality of society and strongly reaffirms the commitment of the international community to their economic, social and cultural well-being and their enjoyment of the fruits of sustainable development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome document: Vienna Declaration (A/CONF.157/23)</td>
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<td>World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 10-12 December 2003)</td>
<td>2. We also reiterate our commitment to the achievement of sustainable development and agreed development goals, as contained in the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus, and other outcomes of relevant United Nations Summits.</td>
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<td>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/AC.241/27, 12 September 1994)</td>
<td>Article 2 Objective 1. The objective of this Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.</td>
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<td>*Mandate to prepare the UNCCD by 1994 was a target adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992.</td>
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<td>International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5 - 13 September 1994)</td>
<td>Chapter I. Preamble 1.1. The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development occurs at a defining moment in the history of international cooperation. With the growing recognition of global population, development and environmental interdependence, the opportunity to adopt suitable macro- and socio-economic policies to promote sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development in all countries and to mobilize human and financial resources for global problem-solving has never been greater. Never before has the world community had so many resources, so much knowledge and such powerful technologies at its disposal which, if suitably redirected, could foster sustained economic growth and sustainable development. None the less, the effective use of resources, knowledge and technologies is conditioned by political and economic obstacles at the national and international levels. Therefore, although ample resources have been available for some time, their use for socially equitable and environmentally sound development has been seriously limited.</td>
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<td>Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (1994)</td>
<td>The Parties to this Agreement, Recognizing that their relations in the field of trade and economic endeavor should be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand, and expanding the production of and trade in goods and services, while allowing for the optimal use of the world's resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development, seeking both to protect and preserve the environment and to enhance the means for doing so in a manner consistent with their respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995)</td>
<td>6. We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4 to 15 September 1995)</td>
<td>We are determined to: 27. Promote people-centred sustainable development, including sustained economic growth, through the provision of basic education, life-long education, literacy and training, and primary health care for girls and women;</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Conference on Human Settlements - Habitat II (Istanbul, 3 - 14 June 1996)</td>
<td>Chapter I Preamble 2. The purpose of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) is to address two themes of equal global importance: &quot;Adequate shelter for all&quot; and &quot;Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world&quot;. Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, including adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements, and they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Food Summit (Rome, 13-17 November 1996)</td>
<td>We recognize the need to adopt policies conducive to investment in human resource development, research and infrastructure for achieving food security. We must encourage generation of employment and incomes, and promote equitable access to productive and financial resources. We agree that trade is a key element in achieving food security. We agree to pursue food trade and overall trade policies that will encourage our producers and consumers to utilize available resources in an economically sound and sustainable manner. We recognize the importance for food security of sustainable agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development in low as well as high potential areas. We acknowledge the fundamental role of farmers, fishers, foresters, indigenous people and their communities, and all other people involved in the food sector, and of their organizations, supported by effective research and extension, in attaining food security. Our sustainable development policies will promote full participation and empowerment of people, especially women, an equitable distribution of income, access to health care and education, and opportunities for youth. Particular attention should be given to those who cannot produce or procure enough food for an adequate</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 18-22 March 2002)</td>
<td>Outcome document: Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/Conf.198/11); Monterey Consensus</td>
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</table>
5. Accordingly, we assume a collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, economic development, social development and environmental protection, at the local, national, regional and global levels. |
| High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy (3-5 June 2008, Rome, Italy), a.k.a. Food Summit | Outcome document: Declaration of the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy | 1) It is essential to address the challenges and opportunities posed by biofuels, in view of the world’s food security, energy and **sustainable development** needs. We are convinced that in-depth studies are necessary to ensure that production and use of biofuels is sustainable in accordance with the three pillars of **sustainable development** and takes into account the need to achieve and maintain global food security. |
III. PROGRESS AREAS AND GAPS IN IMPLEMENTATION

The paper will use a cross sectoral and thematic approach in the analysis of progress made and gaps in implementation as a reflection of the need for streamlining the economic, social and environmental dimensions into economic planning and decision-making. The paper will discuss the achievements and gaps in each of the following areas: poverty reduction, human rights, gender and youth, trade liberalization, technology transfer, capacity building, financing, and the environment and sustainable development. The analyses will provide a general birds’ eye view at the worldwide level and make some reference to the situation in the Arab countries, highlighting the challenges ahead.

A. Poverty Eradication and Employment Creation

The JPoI clearly states that “concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.”9 Global commitment in this area is articulated in Millennium Development Goal Target 1.A, which aims to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.

The world on average has made significant progress towards poverty eradication and improving living standards over the past two decades. The greatest progress took place in East Asia and South Asia. A reduction in poverty has also been experienced in several Latin American countries. Meanwhile, most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have not witness a notable improvement in their living standards.

According to The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011 issued by the United Nations, “Despite significant setbacks after the 2008-2009 economic downturn, exacerbated by the food and energy crisis, the world is still on track to reach the poverty-reduction target. By 2015, it is now expected that the global poverty rate will fall below 15 per cent, well under the 23 per cent target.” This global trend is largely attributed to progress achieved in China and India, the two most populated countries in the world. Important disparities also continue to prevail both within and between countries.

The report also goes on to state that “economic recovery has failed to translate into employment opportunities” and reaching the most vulnerable.10 This does not bode well for the achievement of the MDG Target 1.B that aims to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. It also challenges the extent to which the global commitment articulated in the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development has been achieved, which states that Governments “agree to provide assistance to increase income-generating employment opportunities” (line 28). This may have important implications for future stability, as is manifested recently in many Arab countries.

Arab countries are on track with respect to halving the proportion of people living below US$ 1.25 a day. But this is not the case for the percentage of the population living below national poverty lines. Poverty in Arab LDCs is almost double the region’s average. At the sub-national level, poverty is heavily concentrated in rural areas.11

Economic growth in the Arab countries over the past decade has been capital intensive and was thus not conducive to employment creation and to an inclusive development process where the fruits of economic growth are shared. Unemployment rates remained among the highest in the world, particularly for youth. The persistent high rates of unemployment in the Arab region are closely

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9 JPoI, p. 9
intertwined with poverty and human rights and have serious social and political implications, as the
recent events in the region clearly demonstrate.

B. Human Rights

Unbalanced growth and the sharp disparities within and between countries have shed light on
the need for globalization processes to promote equitable and inclusive sustainable development. A
human rights based approach to sustainable development takes into consideration the interests and
contributions of all segments of society, and promotes a society in which social and environmental
consideration are mainstreamed into economic decision-making. Global conventions on human rights
have advanced progress towards the realization of human rights related to fundamental freedoms,
women, people under occupation, torture, etc., and are frequently cited as enabling measures in the
declarations and outcome documents of major summits. Meanwhile, declarations now endorse the
human right to food, education, shelter, water, sanitation and the protection of traditional knowledge.
For instance, the United Nations General Assembly declared access to clean water and sanitation as a
human right in July 2010. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
adopted by General Assembly Resolution 61/295 on 13 September 2007 recognizes “that respect for
indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable
development and proper management of the environment.” The spirit espoused in this declaration is
now espoused in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. While declarations do not
have the same legal authority as conventions in securing commitments and ensuring their
implementation, they have assisted in raising the profile of these requirements for sustainable
development. Human rights have thus become an important and integral component of sustainable
development commitments.

Important progress has taken place worldwide in advancing human rights in certain areas. In
education for example, most countries are striving to implement the right to education through the
Millennium Development Goal 2 targeting universal primary education. However, progress has been
slow. The net enrolment ratio reached 89 per cent in 2009, an increase of only 7 percentage points
over a period of 10 years. In more recent years, the pace of progress decreased to just 2 percentage
points between 2004 and 2009.12 Arab countries had mixed performance. Overall, there was an
improvement in net enrolment rates, gender parity in primary schooling and literacy rates of young
adults. Despite this progress, enrolment, school completion, out of school children and
marginalization issues in education represent impediments to the achievement of MDG Goal 2. Five
countries, namely, Iraq, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Yemen are off track and need to revise and
accelerate their efforts to this end.13

The participation of all stakeholders, especially civil society and non-governmental
organizations in the economic, social and environmental spheres was greatly emphasized in all of the
declarations and outcome documents resulting from major summits related to sustainable
development. This has reinforced global recognition regarding the need for participatory approaches
for advancing development. Empowering participatory approaches, however, is largely tied to human
rights regarding freedom of expression, freedom of congregation, and freedom of religion. The
realization of these human rights has faced obstacles at the global and regional level, which have
fuelled the conflicts and protests underway in the Arab region.

The right to self-determination, however, remains a fundamental human right that has seen both
progress and stagnation in the region. The peaceful settlement of decades of civil war in Sudan
resulted in a democratic national vote that resulted in the establishment of the independent state of
South Sudan in July 2011. Meanwhile, the Palestinian people have petitioned the United Nations to

Crisis, produced jointly by The League of Arab States and United Nations (E/ESCWA/EDGD/2010/3), pg. 24.
accept Palestine as an independent state recognized by the international community through the United Nations Security Council.

Accordingly, while progress has been achieved in raising the importance of human rights within a sustainable development context, much remains to be done to ensure that access to basic human rights is secured at the global and regional levels.

C. Gender and Youth

The emphasis and pressure put to advance the rights of women since the Beijing Platform for Action and the inclusion of the gender dimension in sustainable development in all the international conferences (see Annex 1) have resulted in marked improvement in the world over the past decade. Women, in general, now enjoy higher life expectancy, less maternal mortality, more access to education, and greater participation in the labor force. Yet greater efforts are still needed to achieve gender equality, especially in political representation.

In the Arab region, progress in promoting gender equality is manifested in increased life expectancy, lower fertility and maternal mortality rates and considerable improvement to women and girls access to all levels of education. National machineries for women have been established in most Arab countries, while several laws discriminating against women were revised to protect women’s rights. However, women’s participation in the labor force and in political life remains very limited. A more vigorous approach and concrete measures are a must to reduce the gender disparity gap in the Arab region and make better use of half the society in moving towards a more sustainable development.

Youth in the Arab region suffer from marginalization. Youth unemployment is among the highest in the world; they are politically marginalized and their future prospects look to be dim. Young women face even more discrimination than young men. With the share of youth in the population in the Arab counties being among the highest in the world, urgent and immediate attention need to be provided to this segment of society in order to build a better and more stable and secure future and to exploit the window of opportunity that the youth provide in sustainable development.

D. Trade Liberalization

The importance of trade as a vehicle for economic growth, improved standards of living and sustainable development is well known. However, while progress has been achieved in opening up markets and reducing tariffs, challenges remain in meeting international commitments agreed to at international summits and associated agreements regarding the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade.

1. Trade as an Engine of Growth

The volume of world trade has increased by 20 times since the 1950s. This was triggered by technological advances and multilateral trade agreements, which advanced trade liberalization measures and increased market openness. Increased competitiveness and non-tariff barriers as well as trade restricting measures, have, however, limited the capacity of some developing countries and the least developed ones to take full advantage of trade liberalization to raise their exports. The latest round of multilateral trade negotiations, called the Doha Round, has failed to reach agreement on the main issues on the agenda so far. This is not conducive for trade liberalization or sustainable development.

15 http://www.globalization101.org/What_is_Globalization.html
In the Arab region, trade is mainly composed of oil and gas exports from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and of few primary commodities for some Arab countries. The lack of economic diversification and the inability to profit from the opportunities of globalization has marginalized the Arab countries' trade share in international trade. The share of exports in total world exports for the ESCWA region, for example, declined from about 6 per cent in 1995 to nearly 3 per cent in 2009.16

To better withstand the adverse effects of globalization especially with regard to trade, regional cooperation and integration plays a key role by increasing the weight of the regional block in negotiations, in reaching agreements, in reaching economies of scale and in tackling common and trans-boundary issues. The aspirations for a greater cooperation and integration among the Arab countries are yet to materialize. Sustainable development depends to a great extent on increasing Arab regional cooperation and integration.

2. Aid for Trade Initiative

The Aid for Trade Initiative was designed to support developing countries in improving their market access through capacity building. The WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade recommended the following objectives for the initiative:

- Enable developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), to use trade more effectively to promote growth, development and poverty reduction and to achieve their development objectives, including the MDGs;
- Help developing countries, particularly LDCs, to build supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure in order to facilitate their access to markets and to export more;
- Help facilitate, implement and adjust to trade reform and liberalization;
- Assist regional integration;
- Assist countries’ smooth integration into the world trading system; and,
- Assist in the implementation of trade agreements (WTO, 2006).17

A recent report published by WTO and OECD18 shows that in 2009, aid-for-trade commitments reached approximately US$ 40 billion, a 60 per cent increase from the 2002-2005 baseline period. The report showed that “Aid-for-trade flows to sub-Saharan Africa increased by 40 per cent to reach USD 13 billion. Africa was lately the largest recipient of total aid for trade among the different regions. Whereas commitments to the Americas increased by almost 60 per cent reaching $3 billion, aid-for-trade commitments to other regions declined by 18 per cent in Asia, 34 per cent in Europe and 28 per cent in Oceania respectively, compared to 2008.19 The Report indicated that receiving countries are increasingly prioritizing competitiveness and export diversification as a way of strengthening their resilience to shocks and of decreasing risk.

Albeit the increase in resources provided for Aid for Trade, the effectiveness and efficiency of the amounts provided for the developing countries and especially for the LDCs need to be well examined and scrutinized. Moreover, the effectiveness of Aid for Trade and other development assistance would depend, to a large extent, on the fiscal, regulatory, and governance policies implemented in the recipient countries.

It should be noted that an Initiative on Aid for Trade for Arab States involving the League of Arab States, the United Nations (UNDP and ESCWA), WTO and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation is currently being finalized.

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16 Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in the ESCWA Region, 2009-2010, pgs. 72-73.
17 OECD/WTO (2011), Aid for Trade at a Glance 2011: Showing Results
  http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264117471-en, 30
18 Ibid.
19 Ibid. pg. 30
3. Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual property rights (IPR) determine the right to use and sell proprietary knowledge by researchers, companies and governments. The WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) covers the following: copyright and related rights; trademarks; geographical indications; industrial designs; patents; layout-designs of integrated circuits; and undisclosed information including trade secrets and test data. The main three feature of the Agreement are: standards, enforcement and dispute settlement.\(^\text{20}\) The rules and rights laid down in this agreement thus dictate the obligation of governments to protect IPR. According to Article 7 of the TRIPS Agreement, “the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations.”\(^\text{21}\)

**Box 3. Generic medicines: Reducing the price of HIV/AIDS treatment**

In 1996, an effective combination therapy treatment that delays the onset of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) became available to those living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Within four years, the death rates for people with HIV/AIDS using this treatment in developed countries dropped by 84 per cent.

At a cost of US$10,000 – US$15,000 per person per year, these antiretroviral drugs while successful were far too expensive for the majority of people infected with HIV in developing countries. Five years after HAART was introduced to the market, only 2 per cent of people in developing countries were receiving this life-saving drug. In order for treatment to reach people living with HIV in the developing world, the price of the drugs clearly needed to come down to an affordable level.

In 2001, an Indian pharmaceutical company announced it would start to produce a generic version of the antiretroviral (ARV) treatment that was largely similar to the one produced by the large pharmaceutical company that invented the drug, but at a significantly cheaper price. This sparked a price war between branded and generic drug-maker and threatened a trade war between members of the WTO. Free market competition, which pushed the price of the drugs downwards, coupled with pressure from activists, organizations (such as the Clinton Foundation and Médecins Sans Frontière) and governments facing with severe AIDS epidemics, resulted in a historical agreement between public and private sector regarding the use of the technology, which dramatically reduced the price of ARVs in resource-poor developing countries. By the middle of 2001, an easier to use triple combination therapy was available from Indian generic manufacturers for as little as $295 per person per year and also being produced in other resource poor countries, including Brazil, Thailand and South Africa.

Between 2004 and 2008, first-line antiretroviral regimens in lower- and middle-income countries declined by 30-68 per cent. This was only possible because India did not have to abide by TRIPS legislation at this time and was therefore able to ignore the patents on the drugs.

*Source: [see http://www.avert.org/generic.htm](http://www.avert.org/generic.htm)*

The protection of IPRs is thus viewed as a way to stimulate innovation and encourage investment in research and development. Inversely, the strict protection of IPRs and their commercial sale by companies can limit the dissemination of new and emerging technologies that could otherwise provide widespread benefits to mankind, such as new medicines resulting from research undertaken by the pharmaceutical industry. Commitments resulting from the WTO TRIPS Agreement, however, have been revisited by the global community in light of sustainable development goals, whereby developing countries are now able to produce generic medicines to protect human health despite proprietary patents held by major pharmaceutical companies, as elaborated in Box 3. IPR thus has

\(^{20}\) [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/intel2_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/intel2_e.htm)

\(^{21}\) Ibid.
important implications for international trade as well as technology transfer within the context of achieving sustainable development goals.

E. Technology Transfer

The importance of technology transfer for development in developing and least developed countries is time and again repeated in the main international conferences, and in the World Summit on the Information Society. Technology management has been shown to be critical to growth and development as is amply demonstrated by the recent experience of the East Asian countries, where rapid rates of economic growth are closely associated with high rates of technology transfer, acquisition, adoption and management.

There has been considerable debate on the effects of TRIPS on technology transfer, with many concerns being expressed about its impact on the transfer of technological knowledge to developing and least developed countries. With TRIPS patenting of pharmaceuticals and restriction of compulsory licensing, there appears to be patent monopoly through control over pharmaceuticals, which ensures royalties for patent rights therein. Its large scale impacts on health in some developing and least developed countries is illustrated in Box 3 above where the use of patent rights against the transfer of knowledge on HIV/AIDS generic medications increased mortality rates among the victims of the disease until a successful breakthrough was achieved in 2001 by India. This was only possible because India did not have to abide by TRIPS legislation at the time and was therefore able to ignore the patent rights.

The Arab countries have been lagging behind in their absorption of technology, and technological components in their exports were among the lowest among developing countries. This again left its mark on economic diversification and employment creation. Technology transfer needs to be combined with people’s mobility and capacity building to be able to reach its optimal results.

There is a need to bridge the widening technological gap between the developed and developing countries through more intensive efforts to encourage technology transfer and adoption/adaptation so that the world in general would advance towards a more sustainable development path.

F. Financing for Development

A key to the implementation of the above commitments is the availability of financial resources. Pledges were made in the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002. The outcome of the Conference was the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development emphasized the need to mobilize and increase “the effective use of financial resources” as the means to achieve “the national and international economic conditions needed to fulfill internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, to eliminate poverty, improve social conditions and raise living standards, and protect our environment, will be our first step to ensuring that the twenty-first century becomes the century of development for all”.

The Consensus focused on six main areas for leading actions, namely:

1. Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development.
2. Mobilizing international resources for development: foreign direct investment and other private flows.


3. International Trade as an engine for development.
4. Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development.
5. External Debt.
6. Addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.

The key commitment in the Monterrey Consensus is the commitment of developed countries to allocate the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their GNP to least developed countries.24

Furthermore, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, which is the outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (Doha, Qatar, 2008), reiterated the resolve of heads of states to implement the Monterrey Consensus and address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity; re-emphasized their commitment to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; and reiterated the urge for developed countries to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA to developing countries, including the specific target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to LDCs in line with the Brussels Programme of Action for the Decade 2001-2010 in accordance with their commitments.25

1. **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**

FDI could play an important role in the transfer of technology and business skills and positively impact development, within a national environment and regulatory framework conducive to it. The Monterrey Consensus affirms the willingness of the international community at large to strengthen national and international efforts aimed at maximizing linkages between FDI with domestic production activities, enhancing the transfer of technology and creating training opportunities for the local labor force, including women and young people.26

FDI in the Arab countries rose slightly in 2008 by only 1.8 per cent, to reach US$ 79.9 billion. The share of Arab countries in total developing countries FDI continued to decline reaching 12.9 per cent in 2008 from 14.8 per cent in 2007 and 16.4 per cent in 2006,27 indicating a preference for other developing countries. Conflict and instability in many countries of the region is a major factor in the limited capacity of Arab countries to attract FDI. This is aggravated by the absence of transparent judicial system and a legal and regulatory framework for disputes settlements among other factors.

2. **Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

In 2010, net aid disbursements reached $128.7 billion, equivalent to 0.32 per cent of developed countries’ combined national income, an increase of 6.5 per cent in real terms over 2009. This was the highest level of real aid ever recorded. Most of the rise was in new lending (which grew by 13.2 per cent), but grants also increased (by 6.8 per cent). However, when comparing the 2010 outcome with pledges made in 2005, there was a shortfall of US$ 19 billion.28

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24 Ibid.
25 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey consensus, para. 43 (A/CONF 212/L.1/Rev.1
26 Monterrey Consensus, op.cit. para. 27
Aid flows from DAC\textsuperscript{29} donor countries amounted to USD 129 billion in 2010, the highest level ever, and an increase of 6.5 per cent over 2009. This represents about 0.32 per cent of the combined gross national income (GNI) of DAC member countries.\textsuperscript{30}

ODA oscillated between 0.27 per cent and 0.36 per cent for twenty years period between the seventies and the nineties. Despite the important progress reached in the per cent of ODA to GNP in this group of countries, it is still less than half the targeted figure of 0.7 per cent of GNP.

The short term outlook for ODA flows is relatively modest. The global recovery has been sluggish, and many donors have budget deficits.

The flow of ODA is crucial for sustainable development of the developing countries and LDCs. It is the means to assist them in the face of increased competition in the world markets as a result of globalization, new and emerging challenges and insufficiency of available national resources. But again the effectiveness of ODA is conditional on its being in line with national priorities and directed to suit the needs and requirements of sustainable development in the recipient country and on the effective use of these resources by the recipient country.

\textit{G. Capacity Building}

Capacity building is the ways and means of promoting and supporting endogenous capacity building in developing and LDC countries in various fields depending on the country’s needs, in economic, social, trade, environment, technology transfer and other issues. Capacity building also involves the understanding and application of certain international Agreements such as WTO agreements and environment related agreements.

Capacity building can support the transfer of knowledge and/or technology and may subsequently lead to greater national ownership and more sustainable development. It also supports the application of standards and norms and other international instruments.

In many cases, capacity building was not sufficient or effective to make a real difference. There is room for a more focused and fruitful capacity building that is tailored to suit each country’s situation and needs.

\textit{H. Environment}

Important strides have been made since Agenda 21 on the preparation and ratification of multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) that tackle key concerns raised in Agenda 21 and the JPoI. These include the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Convention on Drought and Desertification as well as numerous others at the global and regional level that address marine pollution, land-based sources of pollution, endangered species, air pollution, as well as protocols and annexes that support the implementation of commitments adopted in these conventions. However, limited access to financing and technology transfer, the multiplicity of agreements, and on-going environmental degradation indicates that the current system of international environmental governance (IEG) makes it difficult for developing countries to effectively contribute to these processes and meeting these commitments. This has resulted in significant gaps in commitments whereby concerted effort is needed to engage governments and stakeholders in environmental protection as part of the global commitments to achieve sustainable development.

In most of the Arab countries economic development is given higher priority than environmental protection. Policy failures are aggravated by the fact that environmental organizations

\textsuperscript{29} OECD’s Development Assistance Committee composed of 24 members: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (member 2010), Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA and European Union Institutions.

\textsuperscript{30} http://www.oecd.org/document/49/0,3746,en_2649_34447_46582641_1_1_1_1,00.html
are young and lack institutional capacity. Another complicating factor is the fact that throughout the Arab region there is a widespread lack of enforcement of environmental legislation due to many constraints including insufficient administrative capacities.

Population growth and the pace of urbanization in the Arab countries have led to increased demand and increased pressure on already fragile water, land and marine resources. This is amplified by climate change and its consequences with respect to the already scarce water resources, desertification, drought, land degradation and food production. Such common trans-boundary challenges between the countries of the region necessitate increased regional cooperation and for achieving MDG Goal 7 "Ensure Environmental Sustainability.” With respect to water resources, The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011 of the United Nations, states that:

Most regions withdraw less than 25 per cent of their renewable water resources due to ample resource availability and high levels of precipitation and recharge rates. Considering usage trends since 1960, they will not approach the range of physical water scarcity for some time. Contrarily, Western Asia and Northern Africa have far exceeded the threshold of 75 per cent, meaning that their use of water resources is no longer sustainable.

The current environmental policy framework in the Arab region has failed to promote more efficient measures for sustainably managing scarce environmental resources and in some cases misguided policy responses have exacerbated problems. There are many issues that need to be dealt with, cutting across existing institutions, legislation and law and its implementation.

The main challenge facing most decision-makers in the region is policy integration, namely how to effectively formulate, integrate and implement multi-sectoral sustainable development policies. This requires coordination and consultation between government institutions, as well as complementarities and coherence between policy instruments being implemented by different ministries. These difficulties are exacerbated by the centralized, yet compartmentalized nature of governance in the region. Furthermore, there is limited communication between stakeholders and the bodies responsible for implementing and overseeing enacted legislation related to sustainable development, which also explains why policies are not effectively implemented.

Economic instruments to facilitate the effective implementation of MEAs are still not well developed in the region. Some countries are taking steps in that direction such as Egypt, which is currently designing economic instruments for combating industrial pollution, and Sudan is currently planning for increasing fines and taxes for non compliance to the environmental law. Countries depend mainly on command and control measures. Economic instruments such as incentives, taxes and charges, pricing strategies and other indirect measures are applied to a few MEAs, such as Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

An ESCWA study under finalization has made recommendations for increasing coordination through the adoption of a national sustainable development strategy to be informed by strategic studies. This will be accompanied by placing the prime responsibility for concrete action on the sectoral ministries. Each line ministry should include a sustainable development department responsible for incorporating environmental and social issues in the formulation of the Ministry’s policies and plans with the office of the Prime Minister or its equivalent that implement oversight and review process. In parallel, at the regional level, formal mechanisms should be introduced to ensure cooperative action on regional environment agreed upon through existing regional mechanisms is incorporated into the environmental and social components of national sustainable development strategies, and hence into each country’s overarching economic strategy.

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32 Ibid
33 Regional review of institutions for sustainable development in the Arab region, 2011
A number of basic challenges limit the effectiveness of the current IEG system at the global level:

1. Lack of coherence among global environmental policies and programmes: lack of a single authoritative and responsive voice for environmental sustainability at the international level;
2. Lack of an authoritative voice to guide environmental policy effectively at the global level: current hierarchy of environmental decision-making at the international level is incoherent leading to fragmentation, inefficiencies, and overlap;
3. Weak science-policy interface for informed decision-making: A fundamental deficiency in the existing international science-policy infrastructure for environment is a prevalent lack of shared science, of common science and policy objectives, and of capacity in monitoring, data management, assessments and early warning systems--particularly in developing countries and regions;
4. High degree of financial fragmentation: Significant dispersion of financial mechanisms and lack of coordination among mechanisms results in the duplication of activities, higher operational costs and inefficient use of resources;
5. The difficulty of MEA governance and administration: IEG system consists of a plethora of MEAs, each dealing with individual environmental challenges; at the same time the nature of their development has resulted in a complex and fragmented system with substantive and administrative overlaps;
6. Lack of a central monitoring, review and accountability system for commitments made under MEAs: to assess the degree of implementation and more specifically about accountability, including accountability for funding and/or support for implementing commitments;
7. The implementation gap - insufficient response to countries’ needs: This gap is generally the result of a lack of resources, including technical, human, and financial capacity, particularly prevalent in developing countries.\(^34\)

**IV. CONCLUSION**

Important progress has been achieved in meeting many of the commitments of the major international summits for sustainable development stretching from poverty reduction, to gender equality, education, and other areas. The progress, however, was less pronounced on the environmental issues and agreements. This is mainly due to the fact that while greater inter-linkages between the economic and social dimensions has started to materialize, their inter-linkage with the environmental dimension remained weak and have not materialize yet.

Gaps still persist in many areas including in reducing unemployment, achieving greater gender equality, better targeting the poor, a fairer distribution of benefits within and between countries, or reducing the environmental footprint. Challenges and emerging issues pose additional burdens and constraints for developing countries in their efforts to move forward towards sustainable development. This necessitates increased and integrated efforts at all levels, at the international level and at the level of both developing and developed countries.

At the international level, it may be the time to revisit some of the multilateral agreements to fully take into consideration the interests and the needs of developing countries and to move towards an inclusive and fairer globalization. This may necessitate the introduction of revisions/ amendments to the international system to make it more inclusive and reflective of its constituents and to better voice the concerns of all stakeholders. Among the key tools that are required for directing viable

\(^{34}\) UNEP: Paper on Challenges and Gaps in IFSD- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (2011)
efforts in sustainable development is the sharing of information, especially with regard to good practices and lessons learned at the global and regional levels.

Developing countries have to ensure a suitable macroeconomic environment; build their institutional framework; improve their internal coordination mechanisms; ensure integration of the three pillars of sustainable development; increase knowledge and public awareness, and the participation of all stakeholders in planning and decision-making; and raise their absorptive capacity.

Developed countries need to improve their regulatory mechanisms as shown by the recent global financial crisis which was triggered by developments in the USA and for which spread to the world in general, in various degrees and forms. The developed counties are responsible for the emissions that are leading to climate change which is creating great challenges to the developing countries and LDCs, for they have to divert substantial amounts of their efforts to limit the effects of climate change. This makes it imperative for them to channel greater support and scale up financial and technical resources to assist the developing countries in facing these challenges. They should, among other things, adhere to their ODA commitment of 0.7 of GNP to developing countries; better target their aid to the dire needs of the populations of the recipient countries and to enable them to face the current challenges and emerging issues; further facilitate technology transfer and adaptation; enhance capacity building programmes that are more suited and tailor-made to developing countries needs; and remove all non-tariff barriers to trade.

Combined efforts and effective strategic partnership together with innovative techniques and mechanisms would provide the leverage and ensure the advancement of human well being and achieve a more sustainable development and withstand the emerging challenges.

Arab countries need to develop a strategic approach to achieve sustainable development. They need to work particularly hard to meet the concerns of their growing population, especially the youth, and to provide an environment that is inclusive and that takes into consideration the concerns of all segments of society. Only sustained efforts, strategic planning and rapid implementation of policies and measures to streamline social and environmental aspects into economic planning and decision-making would ensure that our children and grandchildren will be able to benefit and enjoy the fruits of sustainable development.
# ANNEX I

## Commitments of Major International Summits and Conferences on Sustainable Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summit</th>
<th>Enabling environment, including sound policies, legislative framework, etc.</th>
<th>Poverty eradication</th>
<th>Justice, human equity, human rights, democracy</th>
<th>Special support to Africa and/or LDCs</th>
<th>International, regional and sub-regional cooperation</th>
<th>Mobilization and efficient use of financial resources</th>
<th>Trade facilitation and other trade-related measures</th>
<th>Technology transfer, capacity-building and support for research</th>
<th>Institutional reform, including strengthening the United Nations</th>
<th>Other specific commitments and issues addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDCs (2011)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓35</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Increase productive capacities, diversify economies, build necessary infrastructure, support private sector, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Conference on Financing for Development (2002)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Good governance at all levels and the rule of law, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief, enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, fight corruption and money laundering, increase overseas development assistance (ODA), particularly for least developed countries, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennium Summit (2000)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Peace, security and disarmament, protecting our common environment, good governance, protecting the vulnerable, outline for the MDGs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Food Summit (1996)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Food security for all and eradicating hunger36, combat pests, drought and desertification, preparedness for natural disasters and man-made</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

35 Enabling half of LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation; Preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries.

36 Reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summit</th>
<th>Enabling environment, including sound policies, legislative framework, etc.</th>
<th>Poverty eradication</th>
<th>Justice, human rights, democracy</th>
<th>Special support to Africa and/or LDCs</th>
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<th>Mobilization and efficient use of financial resources</th>
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<th>Institutional reform, including strengthening the United Nations</th>
<th>Other specific commitments and issues addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Summit for Social Development (1995)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Full employment, social integration, access to quality education, access to primary health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth World Conference on Women (1995)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Empowerment and advancement of women, reflect a gender perspective in all policies and programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (1994)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓ 37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓ 38</td>
<td>✓ 39</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Pursue a more fair and open multilateral trading system; remove non-tariff barriers to trade; eliminate quotas; improve transparency in government procurement, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (1994)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Adopt an integrated approach to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, address the underlying causes, promote awareness and facilitate the participation of local populations, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Conference on Human Rights</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Improve economic, social and cultural well-being of indigenous people, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

37 Address the marginalization of LDCs in international trade, accelerate their accession to WTO, and provide duty-free, quota-free market access for products originating from LDCs.
38 Notably in relation to improving market access of agricultural products, phasing out all forms of export subsidies and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support.
39 Notably in the area of trade facilitation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summit</th>
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<th>Other specific commitments and issues addressed</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1993)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare GHG emission inventories, adopt mitigation and adaptation programmes, education, training and public awareness, reporting and monitoring, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, incentive measures, public education and awareness, access and benefit sharing, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Summit (1992)</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, incentive measures, public education and awareness, access and benefit sharing, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

40 Developed Parties included in Annex II commit to provide new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations.
41 All commitments take into consideration the specific needs of different countries based on their national conditions.