Key Issues for Consideration on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Agenda
29-30 May, 2013

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SDGs versus MDGs

Shortfalls of MDGs…

• Limited in scope suggested by Millennium Declaration
• Too 'donor-centric'
• Not resilient in face of shocks
• Top-down

SDGs to be:

• Action-oriented
• Concise
• Easy to communicate
• Limited in number
• Aspirational
• Global in nature
• Universal but not prescriptive
• To tackle environmental sustainability, inequality and social exclusion and security and human rights

Emerging global challenges that affect the Arab Region

• Persisting inequalities
• Food (in)security
• Information Communication Technologies
• Demographic changes
• Environmental degradation
• Peace and (in)security
• Governance in an interconnected World
Vision for post-2015 UN Agenda

• Paradigm shift in international development: ‘transformative change towards inclusive, people-centred, sustainable development’
• Three principles:
  1. human rights
  2. equality
  3. sustainability
• Four pillars:
  1. environmental sustainability
  2. inclusive social development
  3. inclusive economic development
  4. peace and security

Framing questions for future UN Agenda

• How do we integrate the dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way?
• How do we address more sensitive issues like peace and security, governance and accountability etc.?
• How do we ensure coherence and coordination within the UN system around the post-2015 agenda?
• What would be the most ideal outcome of the Special Event in September 2013?
• How can our work be better integrated with all processes established by the Rio + 20 Conference, including the Open Working Group on sustainable development goals?
• How do we ensure the international community arrives at one cohesive and coherent global development agenda with one set of goals post-2015?
On-going multi-processes in developing SDGs and Arab states involvement

• Open Working Group on SDGs (proposal in 2014)
• High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 20-15 Development Agenda (report end May 2013)
• UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Agenda
• National, Global and Thematic consultations (UNDG)
• Regional Consultations
• Sustainable Development Solutions Network
• UN Global Compact

SDGs: ethos and framework

• *How do we select a universal set of goals that recognise CBDR?* An approach proposed is that goals be universal whilst targets are selected nationally.
• *How to balance and integrate the three dimensions?* An approach proposed is to develop a few key goals that combine all three dimensions, with narrower goals to complement these. Alternatively, each goal could have targets/indicators that embrace all three dimensions.
• *How to address the means of implementation?* Questions remain on how ODA, trade, investment, technology transfer and capacity building be addressed.
• *How to measure progress?* Key questions remain around the selection of indicators.
Suggested list of priorities areas for SDGs for the Arab Region

- Peace and security and freedom from violence (especially sexual violence).
- Climate change.
- Food, water and energy security (i.e. the nexus approach).
- Sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Poverty eradication.
- Creation of decent jobs in public and private sector, the reduction of brain drain and ensuring dignified livelihoods.
- Population growth, urbanization and displacement in the region (and the stresses these impinge on water, food, sanitation, education and health services).
- Social cohesion and the inclusion of minority groups and the needs of youth.
- Women's rights and equality in society.
- Right of access to information and transfer and localization of appropriate technologies.
- Finance mechanisms.
- Debt problems and fair international trade systems and trade liberalization.
- International partnerships and South-South support.