Institutional framework for Sustainable Development – Global, regional and national interlinkages

CSD 20 Western Asia Regional Implementation Meeting
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Status of Rio+20 follow-up processes

High-level Political Forum – to be part of the post-2015 institutional framework

• Format and organizational modalities resolution now under discussion – no agreement yet
• three tier structure proposed:
  – HS/HG;
  – Ministers;
  – Senior Officials Meetings
• Lessons learned from CSD:
  – need for clear home for SD
  – strongly linked to the follow-up of Rio+20 and other related conferences
  – helping mainstream sustainable development in UN work (GA and ECOSOC) including RCs
  – strong focus on implementation at all levels, sharing of experiences, reviewing and monitoring and strong link from national to regional to global
  – furthering integration of three dimensions of SD, engaging more strongly economic and social policy making communities
  – Enhanced engagement of MGs
  – focused and flexible agenda including SDGs once adopted
  – robust preparatory process
  – encouraging and strengthening partnerships and voluntary commitments
Status of Rio+20 follow-up processes (cont’d)

**SDGs**
- Initial input from UN system (requested in Rio+20)
- Open Working Group on SDGs held 3 meetings so far
  - one procedural
  - two substantive meetings on conceptualizing SDGs and poverty, food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation, drought; water and sanitation
- Programme of work for the OWG decided until Feb 2014
  - Focus on thematic areas, covering broad spectrum of issues

**Issues**
- Renewed political commitment of MS to SD
- One set of global SD goals vs. two set of goals?
- SDGs “universal”: all countries taking action
- True global partnership for SD transcending donor-recipient relationship

Status of Rio+20 follow-up processes (cont’d)

- **Expert committee on sustainable development financing strategy**
  - Committee not constituted yet, negotiations about composition under way (Kazakhstan and Norway)
  - Rio+20 mandate:
    - look at financing needs,
    - consider effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks
    - evaluating additional initiatives
    - prepare a report proposing options by the end of 2014, for GA consideration
  - Support from UN system: working group established under the post-2015 TT
    - Includes entire UN system including RCs
    - chaired by DESA and UNDP
    - currently preparing think pieces on the above topics
Status of Rio+20 follow-up processes (cont'd)

• **Technology facilitation mechanism**
  – Rio+20 mandated report, presented to GA in September 2012
  – GA asked for 4 workshops and subsequent report to GA
    • First 2 workshops held on 29, 30 April 2013 on national level TT
    • Next 2 workshops held on 30, 31 May 2013 on international level TT

• **Small Island Developing States**
  – MS called for Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014
  – to be held in September 2014 in Samoa after a series of regional and interregional meetings
  – global process will be launched in Dec 2013

• **Intergenerational solidarity**
  – Upcoming SG’s report (DESA/DSD)

Links between the Rio+20 follow-up processes
National level: Lessons learned from CSD

- National reporting not sufficiently taken into consideration at CSD
  - Loose guidelines for reporting, reports were not comparable
  - Little support to build capacity for reporting in developing countries
  - National reports mostly used for illustrative purposes in SG reports
  - Overall, little impact on discussions at global level
- Challenges at national level and lack of implementation of global commitments were discussed, but no clear improvement as a result
- National sustainable development strategies (NSDS)
  - Many countries developed NSDS including with technical support from Secretariat
  - No systematic review of NSDS by the Commission
  - NSDS often not “mainstreamed” or “preferred” national development blueprint
- SD indicators
  - called for in Agenda 21
  - Lack of systematic monitoring and interaction between national and international levels

Regional level: Lessons learned from CSD

- From Rio in 1992 to Rio in 2012, all international agreements called for strong regional component and increasing the role of regional commissions
- CSD 11 mandated Regional Implementation Meetings - RIMs in review years
  - found to be to be useful for the regions, but small impact at the global level
- Subsequent CSD sessions held regional discussions during review years and regional perspectives session during policy years
  - little influence on discussions in general, because held in parallel with official plenary meetings
- CSD18: inter-regional dialogue useful
- Overall, regional preparatory meetings not sufficiently used and taken into consideration
National and regional levels: High-stake areas

- **National level**: HLPF could provide platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned
  - among governmental, non-governmental stakeholders and the UN system
  - national voluntary presentations at each session of the forum (both developed and developing countries) with clear recommendations to be followed upon in subsequent years
  - database for sharing practices and lessons learned
  - Capacity building for preparations at national level
- **Regional level**: strengthen SD as overarching framework of the RCs’ work
  - discuss issues specific to each region, engage with relevant regional actors
  - review progress against commitments, gaps and challenges
  - develop recommendations for the Forum
- Critical role of regional level to:
  - foster mainstreaming of sustainable development at national level,
  - ensure that policy decisions are relevant to regional and national levels
  - engage all relevant actors (state and non-state)
  - support implementation at national and regional levels
  - enhance inter-regional cooperation
- **Global level**: inputs from regional and national levels need to have appropriate space in policy decisions
  - engage regional commissions more systematically in HLPF sessions
  - enhanced reporting and accountability mechanism for implementation
  - Interregional dialogues