Sustainable Development Goals: Conceptual Aspects

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Order of Discussion

- Key Challenges

- Structure of SDGs and Key Elements

- Examples of Goals

- The Way Ahead

Key Challenges

- Learning lessons from the actual experience
- International cooperation
  - Danger of new obligations on part of developing countries
  - Not matched by obligations on the part of developed countries
- Global enabling environment
- Means of implementation
  - Accountability and Performance

Structure of SDGs

1. Principles and Modalities

2. Goals, targets and actions **at the international level** to support achievement of SDGs

3. Sections on Economic, Social, and Environmental Goals

4. Section on Means of Implementation (finance resources, technology transfer, . . .)

Principles (1/2)

1. The SDGs should be based on Agenda 21 and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, (and also Rio+20 outcome and other UN conferences oneconomic, social and environmental issues).

2. The formulation and implementation of SDGs shall fully respect all Rio Principles, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities,

3. The SDGs are to be consistent with international law.

4. The SDGs should 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 Rio+20.

5. These goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their inter-linkages.

6. They should be coherent with and integrated in the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015.

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Principles (1/2)

7. They should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and serve as a driver for implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system as a whole.

8. The development of these goals should not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Sample of Economic Goals

1) Adequate rate of economic growth, which is inclusive, sustainable and sustained.

2) Financial stability, with adequate regulation and a reformed global financial architecture.

3) International financing for development.

4) Effectively addressing debt problems of developing countries, including through an international debt restructuring mechanism.

5) Trade in service of development

6) Technology transfer and development, and re-orienting the IPR regime towards sustainable development.

7) Promoting industrialization in developing countries.

8) Promoting sustainable agriculture in developing countries.

9) Commodities: prices and revenues; adding value through processing and industry; speculation in commodity markets

10) Policy space and instruments to put into effect policies in the above mentioned areas.

Sample of Social Goals

1) Poverty eradication.

2) Redistribution policies and measures.

3) Policies and measures to reduce inequalities at national and international levels

4) Objective of full employment and adequate livelihoods.

5) Access of the poor to affordable health, food, water and sanitation, energy, education.

6) The global food crisis and food security.

7) Social protection measures

8) Importance of international environment and partnership and support to enable developing countries to achieve the above, through finance, technology transfer, trade policies.

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Areas for Environmental Goals

1) Atmosphere and climate.

2) Oceans and seas.

3) Water.

4) Forests

5) Biodiversity

6) Toxic chemicals and waste.

7) Sustainable Agriculture

8) Sustainable consumption and production patterns.

9) Importance of international environment, partnership and support (international system and policies of developed countries that can support and achieve the above).

Integration of Goals

- In formulating each goal, the three dimensions of sustainable development should be integrated. Thus, though an issue may be primarily economic (eg. Agricultural development), the social aspects (eg. Access to land and credit for small farmers) and environmental aspects (ecologically sound techniques) will also be considered.

Responsibility
of Developed Countries

- Developed countries must also accept goals and targets. These targets must not have negative effects on developing countries and guarantee developing countries' environmental and development space. A key broad goal that is important for developed countries is sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

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A. Promoting sustainable development through **trade** Basis for action

2.5. An open, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory and predictable multilateral trading system that is consistent with the goals of sustainable development and leads to the optimal distribution of global production in accordance with comparative advantage is of benefit to all trading partners. Moreover, improved market access for developing ountries' exports in conjunction with sound macroeconomic and environmental policies would have a positive environmental impact and therefore make an important contribution towards sustainable development.

2.6. Experience has shown that sustainable development requires a commitment to sound economic policies and management, an effective and predictable public administration,

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- **Objectives**

  2.9. In the years ahead, and taking into account the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, Governments should continue to strive to meet the following objectives:

  a. To promote an open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that will enable all countries - in particular, the developing countries - to improve their economic structures and improve the standard of living of their populations through sustained economic development;

  b. To improve access to markets for exports of developing countries;

- ● ● ● c. d. ,

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- Activities

(a) International and regional cooperation and coordination Promoting an international trading system that takes account of the needs of developing countries

2.10. Accordingly, the international community should:

a. Halt and reverse protectionism in order to bring about further liberalization and expansion of world trade, to the benefit of all countries, in particular the developing countries

b. Provide for an equitable, secure, non-discriminatory and predictable international trading system;

c. Facilitate, in a timely way, the integration of all countries into the world economy and the international trading system;

● ● ● 2.11 to 2.16 ● ● ●

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- Means of implementation

a. Financing and cost evaluation

2.17. The Conference secretariat has estimated the average total annual cost (1993-2000) of implementing the activities in this programme area to be about $8.8 billion from the international community on grant or concessional terms. These are indicative and order-of-magnitude estimates only and have not been reviewed by Governments. Actual costs and financial terms, including any that are non-concessional, will depend upon, inter alia, the specific strategies and programmes Governments decide upon for implementation.

b. Capacity-building

2.18. The above-mentioned technical cooperation activities aim at strengthening national capabilities for design and implementation of commodity policy, use and management of national resources and the gathering and utilization of information on commodity markets.

The Way Ahead

- At the beginning of the process

- Outcome might be not as detailed or elaborate as Agenda 21 but all basic elements and comprehensive approach needed

- Possible convergence later on with MDGs and SG High Level Panel outcome

- Accountability → Need to establish monitoring, reporting, verification processes – reliable data and rigorous analysis

Thank you

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