Putting Scotland at the Core of Post-Rio+20 Processes & SDGs

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Rio+20: Success or Failure?

• “Was Rio+20 a success or a failure?”
  – Simplistic and reductive, the answer is more nuanced
  – Successes and failures must be itemised
  – Rio+20 was the starting point of various processes

• Time will be the truest judge of Rio+20.

• But time is not on our side; we are sitting on a socio-ecological time bomb.
Rio+20 Outcomes

1. Intergovernmental Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Open Working Group (OWG) report by ~2014 - §248
2. Call for integration with post-2015 through UN Task Team - §249
3. High level political forum (HLPF) by Sept 2013 - §84-86
4. Finance for SD strategy by 2014 - §256
5. Technology transfer recommendations by 2013 - §273
6. Strengthen UNEP by 2013 (universal membership & secure funding) - §88
7. 10YFP on SCP adopted 2012, now to be operationalised - §226
8. Use of oceans beyond national jurisdictions by 2015 - §161 & 162
9. Beyond GDP - §38a
10. Registry of voluntary commitments - §283
11. Green economy policies - §56-74
12. Integration of 3 dimensions of SD across UN - §93
13. SG report on Future Generation/Intergenerational Solidarity
14. SG’s Zero Hunger challenge
Post-2015 Development Agenda

• New development agenda must be an urgent priority for the international community.
  – Further integrate development and environment agendas

• Must draw on learning from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and address multiple interlinked global challenges (e.g. climate change, resource scarcity, governance, equity and resilience).

• Central to the post-2015 development agenda will be new global goals.

• Integration & Convergence: One development agenda and one set of global development goals, both of which have sustainable development at the heart with the aim of eradicating poverty.
Integration and its Challenges

• Two ways to achieve integration:
  1. Top-down – architecture and mechanics of processes
  2. Bottom-up – bringing together different stakeholder communities

• Four “i” barriers to integration:
  1. Institutional
  2. Ideological
  3. Intellectual
  4. Implemental
Where Are We Now?

Fulfilling the Rio+20 Promises: Reviewing Progress since the UN Conference on Sustainable Development

Read Report Here
Fulfilling the Rio+20 Promises

• Review of the progress made to date on key negotiated and voluntary commitments made at Rio+20.

• Two Purposes:

  1. Communications tool
  2. Accountability mechanism
Negotiated Commitments

• Selected 14 significant and tangible commitments as basis of report

• Too early to assess impact, but overall progress reasonable

• Reviewed implementation based upon progress to date

• Plus four important accountability dimensions that we believe are the building blocks for effective, transparent and democratic implementation:
  1. Target date
  2. Work plan
  3. Stakeholder engagement
  4. Transparency
## Rio+20: Landmark Commitments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commitment</th>
<th>Progress so far</th>
<th>Target date</th>
<th>Work plan</th>
<th>Stakeholder engagement mechanisms</th>
<th>Transparency</th>
<th>Overall assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High level political forum</td>
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<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>Financing sustainable development</td>
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<td>GOOD</td>
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High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

• Overall Assessment – “Very Good”

• HLPF has been established and its first meeting is scheduled for Sep 2013

• Still key processes & issues to resolve, including the modalities for stakeholder engagement and agenda-setting

• Unlikely to begin any substantive work until procedural arrangements have been agreed upon
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Overall assessment – “Good”
- OWG has been established and is on track to submit its report in 2014.
- Efforts made to ensure transparency and stakeholder engagement
- Lack of clarity on the OWG’s activities after Feb 2013
- Convergence of SDGs and post-MDG processes?
Sustainable Development Finance

• Overall assessment – “Good”
• 30 member Intergovernmental Committee established, first meeting August 2013
• Developed a work plan and is on track to submit its report in 2014.
• No formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement have been agreed.
• Lack of transparency - Both the meetings to establish the Committee and the sessions of the Committee itself have been closed
68th Session of UN General Assembly

- Very high interest levels (stakeholders and governments).

- Outcome Document of MDGs Special Event:
  - global call to ‘reinforce the international community's commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development.’
  - formal acknowledgement of a 2015 Summit
  - ensure that all stakeholders are consulted in the new ‘organisational modalities for the Summit,’ and that these modalities themselves are open, transparent and inclusive.
Accountability & Advocacy Key

• Good progress made on key commitments
• Need to keep pushing as challenges will increase.
• Stakeholders have key roles in:
  1. Raising awareness
  2. Providing expert input
  3. Advocacy & shaping decisions
  4. Implementation & accountability
• Advanced **accountability** and **advocacy** mechanisms needed to:
  a) ensure promises made at Rio+20 are fulfilled; and
  b) develop a bold and ambitious post-2015 agenda.
Role of Scotland?

• **Four Potential Roles:**

1. Raising awareness and creating dialogue:
   - Public
   - Media
   - Expert stakeholders

2. Shaping the SDGs - [www.sdgseinventory.org](http://www.sdgseinventory.org)
   - Form thematic groups, e.g. on a water goal

3. Undertaking political advocacy at home and abroad
   - 4 political levels – Scotland, UK, EU and international

4. Ensuring delivery and “vertical alignment”
Vertical Alignment

Vision
Goals
Strategies
Implementation

Post-2015

SDGs

National SD Strategies & Councils

National Policies

Local Delivery Programmes
National Action

• Some key elements will need to be addressed everywhere.

• At the national and local levels we must now:
  – Improve **government and legislative machinery** for sustainable development;
  – Model new and better processes for engaging stakeholder in **participatory decision-making** for sustainable development;
  – Create or renew **national sustainable development strategies** or frameworks, particularly in light of the new global goals;
  – Improve **sustainable economic policies**, instruments and programmes in line with green economy principles; and
  – Deliver formal and informal training and **education for sustainable development**.
Thank You

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