Strengthening integration, implementation and review: The Role of HLPF after 2015

Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Addis Ababa, 17 June, 2015
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1. Background and introduction

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

- Called for a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development
- Called for promoting the review and stocktaking of progress in the implementation of all sustainable development commitments
- Emphasized the role of effective governance at all levels to achieve sustainable development
- Committed to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development at the global level
- Reaffirmed role of the GA as chief, deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN
- Called on the GA to further integrate sustainable development in its agenda
Background and introduction...

- Called for UN system-wide coherence and coordination
- Invited the UN system and international financial institutions to enhance mainstreaming of sustainable development
- Recognized the critical role of ECOSOC as the principal body for policy review, dialogue and recommendations, and follow-up to the MDGs
- Committed to strengthening ECOSOC, in particular to foster a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development
- Decided to establish a universal intergovernmental High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development - to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development
- Decided to launch an intergovernmental and open, transparent and inclusive negotiation process under the General Assembly to define the format and organizational aspects of HLPF
2. Global level institutional framework

Strengthened institutional framework for sustainable development at the global level that:

- Promotes a balanced integration of the three dimensions of SD
- Enhances coherence, reduce fragmentation and overlap
- Increases efficiency, effectiveness and transparency within & outside UN system
- Promotes full and effective participation of all countries
- Engages high-level political leaders
- Ensures effective implementation at all levels
- Enhances the engagement of major groups

Ensure adequate frameworks at regional, national and local levels

Ensure effective linkages from global to local
3. Follow-up processes

Global level

July 2013- UNGA established the HLPF and agreed on its format and organizational aspects

- September 2013 - inaugural meeting
- July 2014- second meeting
- 26 June to 8 July 2015 – third meeting- Theme “Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015”.

Jan, 2013- UNGA established OWG to steer the formulation of the SDGs

Sep, 2014- UNGA welcomed OWG report (17 Goals and 169 targets) - the main basis for integrating SDGs into post-2015 development agenda
Follow-up processes...

**Africa level**

- **Nov, 2012** - Africa RIM recommended upgrading of the regional platform to the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

- **March, 2013** - Joint ECA/ AUC Conference of Ministers - Africa-RIM outcome document as a key input to the Rio+20 follow-up processes.

- **Nov, 2013** - Africa Regional Consultative Meeting endorsed 12 SDGs as input to the work of African HLC on post-2015.
  
    - Africa’s SDGs outcomes- informed CAP and Africa’s participation in the Open Working Group on SDGs.

4. High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Main United Nations platform dealing with SD

Mandate:

- Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development
- Follow up and review progress in the implementation of SD commitments and ultimately SDGs
- Enhance the integration of the three dimensions of SD in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels
- Have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging challenges
Meetings of the Forum under the auspices of GA and ECOSOC

**Under GA**
- Convened at the level of Heads of State and Government
- Convened every four years by the President of the GA
- Result in a concise negotiated political declaration

**Under ECOSOC**
- Convened annually by the President of the Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment
- Reviews mandated to replace the National Voluntary Presentations of ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Reviews
- Expected to be more effective, building on other review mechanisms
4.1 Role of HLPF in achieving integration

- Balanced integration of economic, social and environmental dimension critical in tackling complex SD challenges.

- Participation of countries in HLPF should foster integration – three dimensions – rather than one dominating.

- Effective representation and participation of developing countries, particularly LDCs essential.

- Decision of GA to cover travel expenses of one representative of LDCs to HLPF meetings – welcome; but establishment of trust fund essential.

- Work of HLPF on post-2015 development agenda provides opportunity for integration – adopting interlinkages and integrated approaches.

- Forum to become a champion for support in mainstreaming SD in UN system - coordination and coherence.
4.2 Role of HLPF in enhancing implementation

- Provide a “dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance SD

- Agenda to be flexible to accommodate new and emerging issues:
  - Will strengthen the relevance of the Forum
  - Foster demand driven responses and attract required support for implementation

- Attract the involvement of ministers and high level policy makers from all three dimensions

- Promote the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of SD policies

- Entail broad civil society input and participation

- Devote adequate time to discussing SD challenges facing developing countries – address barriers to implementing commitments
4.3 Role of HLPF in ensuring effective review

- Follow up and review implementation progress - all the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields including their respective MoI

- Under ECOSOC HLPF will conduct regular reviews within context of the post-2015 development agenda

- Effective review mechanism to ensure the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda

- Goals, targets and indicators, including gender-sensitive indicators - valuable in measuring and accelerating progress

- Voluntary, State-led, participatory, evidence-based and multi-tiered process to monitor progress
Ensuring effective review ...

- **Envisaged review architecture - SG’s report**
  - Accountability at the national level
  - Peer reviews at the regional level
  - Knowledge and experience sharing at the global level
  - Thematic reviews to chart progress on particular themes
  - Review of the global partnership for sustainable development

- Review system to allow for effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting

- Setting realistic and flexible targets to focus on outcomes and means of implementation

- Monitoring and evaluation framework for SDGs could build on existing institutional mechanisms

- Essential to assess goals, targets and indicators on MoI in relation to progress made in other relevant areas, and vice-versa
Ensuring effective review.

- Need to address challenges related to monitoring the new goals that seek to integrate social, environmental and economic dimensions of SD

- Need for well-coordinated interventions to strengthen statistical capacity

- Critical to institute multi-stakeholder reviews from local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels

- Review of the global partnership for SD has also been proposed
5. Key questions

a. ECOSOC and HLPF seem to have similar mandates in relation to implementing sustainable development at the global level. How could the roles and responsibilities of the two bodies be delineated in order to avoid duplication and overlaps?

b. How could HLPF ensure effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in terms of its operational modalities, including balanced representation of member States and other stakeholders in its meetings, taking into account different developmental contexts?

c. How could HLPF strengthen sustainable development implementation through its meeting agenda and follow-up mechanism; as well as in the manner it tackles new and emerging issues, and fosters inclusive and broad based participation?

d. How could the review mechanism (monitoring, evaluation and reporting) be operationalized taking into account different developmental contexts?
Key questions.

e. How could HLPF promote integrated and synergistic implementation of the goals within a post-2015 review framework?

f. Should the means of implementation be part of the review framework and how could progress on means of implementation be monitored?

g. Should thematic reviews be conducted in addition to the sustainable development goals-based reviews? If yes, how could such reviews be conducted?

h. How could HLPF ensure effective linkages between global, regional and national level processes?
Thank You