



RIO+20

**United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development**

***Briefing to the Expert Group Meeting
by Nikhil Seth, Director, DSD/DESA***

Rio+20 Process (1)



- **Background**
- **Expected Outcomes of Rio**
- **Highlights of Zero Draft**
- **Measuring Progress**
- **Current Status in Zero Draft**
- **Current Status in GSP Report**
- **Trends in Current discussions**
- **Next Steps**

Background (2)



- **Critical stage of negotiations**
- **Zero draft basis for negotiations (drawn from 6000 page compilation)**
- **Phases in negotiations (Jan 25-27, March 19-27, April 23 – May 4, June 13 -15)**
- **Other inputs include GSP, country initiatives, regional preparations (Group and national submissions key)**

Expected Outcomes at Rio+20 (3)



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- Political outcome (negotiated text)
- Voluntary commitments
- Launch of initiatives and partnerships (SE4ALL most high profile)
- Learning, brokering partnerships, side events
- Compendium/Registry of commitments
- Very high level participation
- Unprecedented participation from all stakeholders

Zero Draft highlights (4)



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- 5 Interlinked chapters drawn from inputs
- Overall snapshot view (27 initiatives)
 - Call for bold decisive action
 - High profile role for all stakeholders
 - Green economy roadmap suiting national circumstance
 - Learning platforms
 - Meeting cost of transition to Green Economy
 - Strong focus on measuring progress
 - Call for report on state of planet
 - Call for High Commissioner for Future Generations
 - Focus on priority areas (food, water, energy, cities, jobs, oceans, natural disasters)
 - Other areas (climate change, biodiversity, forests, land degradation, mountains, chemicals and waste)
 - Cross sectoral areas (SCP, education, gender equality, finance, science and technology and capacity building, trade)
 - Establishment of registry of voluntary commitments
 - Beyond GDP

Measuring Progress (SDGs) (5)

Background



- **Proposed by Colombia at Solo in July 2011 (IFSD dialogue)**
- **Supported by many other States especially Guatemala/Peru**
- **Strong support in contributions to Zero draft**
- **Part of Zero draft and in report of GSP**

Current status in Zero draft (6)



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Section on SDGs

- Asks for Rio+20 to devise a process to define SDGs
 - A set of global Sustainable Development Goals that reflect an integrated and balanced treatment of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and are aspirational, universal and applicable to all countries
 - A mechanism for periodic follow-up and reporting on progress made toward their achievement

Lists themes to be covered under the Goals:

- Food security and sustainable agriculture; sustainable energy for all; water access and efficiency; sustainable cities; green jobs, decent work and social inclusion; oceans; disaster risk reduction and resilience; sustainable consumption and production

Calls for establishment of one set of goals by 2015 which are part of 2015 UN Development Agenda

Calls for capacity building to collect and analyze data.

Status in GSP Report (7)



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- **Recommends agreement on a key set of universal sustainable development goals that draw on the experience of the MDGs and build on their successful aspects**
- **The goals “should be defined in a way that complements the Millennium Development Goals while allowing for a post-2015 successor framework”.**
- **Recommendations for an SDG framework:**
 - **Universal and cover three pillars (as in zero draft)**
 - **Express a broadly agreed global strategy for sustainable development**
 - **Incorporate a range of key areas not fully covered in the MDGs**
 - **Provide scope for the review of these goals in view of evolving scientific evidence**

Trends in current discussions (8)



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Three levels of ambition:

- (a) minimalist – agree on the need for SDGs and leave further detailing to post-2015 process
- (b) spell out in addition the areas where these goals should be defined
- (c) establish the goals and leave detailing on targets and indicators to subsequent process.

Areas of agreement:

- (a) Principles/guidelines/characteristics – integrated treatment, applicable to all countries, limited in number, poverty, inequality, gender dimension to be well reflected;
- (b) all stakeholders to be involved in subsequent process;
- (c) one set of goals in 2015 as part of UN Development Agenda

Next steps (9)



- **How far are Member States willing to go. Priority areas.**
- **Future work and harmonious integration will depend on outcome document. Targets/indicators to reflect agreed principles.**
- **No ambiguity on final 'post-2015' process but uncertainty of how strongly Rio+20 will guide this process.**

Communications and Outreach (10)



- The global interagency communications and outreach strategy for Rio+20, relies on the phrase “The Future We Want”, and a mix of traditional and new media and events, including social media tools and an exhibit at Rio+20.
- Close collaboration among Rio+20 Secretariat, DPI and UN entities through a task force leverages access to many constituencies and on-line communities
- UN Facebook has some 700,000 participants, the Rio+20 Website receives 7,000 unique visitors per day, the Rio+20 Twitter account has 8,000 followers and the Rio+20 dedicated Facebook page has 9,000 participants
- A series of Rio+20 outreach products, including a calendar, pins, pens, tote bags and a brochure have been produced and distributed

Communications and Outreach contd...



- A UN stamp dedicated to Rio+20 will be launched at the Conference in June
- Wide international major media coverage, monitored daily by DPI (currently some 25-30 articles per day), shows that interest in the Conference is snowballing as the Conference approaches
- Some 950 major group organizations have applied for accreditation for the Conference, significantly higher than the 170 major group organizations at WSSD Johannesburg. Beyond the Conference, some 30,000 civil society individuals are expected at Rio in all.