

Keynote Address
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Independent Commission on Multilateralism (Eight Retreat)
“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing Climate
Change”

1. Salutations and thanks to organisers
2. Structure of presentation
 - 2.1. Link between Agenda 2030, Climate Change and peaceful and just societies
 - 2.2. Current institutions and implementation response
 - 2.3. Recommendations for change
3. Agenda 2030, Climate Change and peaceful and just societies
 - 3.1. Triplets conjoined at the hip. Acknowledged as such, for the first time in Agenda 2030 one of the most far reaching agenda ever adopted by the United Nations.
 - 3.2. Peaceful and just societies. Root causes for conflict - human deprivations and injustice - creates a sense of hopelessness. Driving force for violence and other manifestations such as refugees and migration woven into a 15 year framework for the first time. Human deprivation/injustice need to be addressed in a larger timeframe. This is the heart of preventive diplomacy.
 - 3.3. Climate Change works eventually through disruptions of the hydrological system. Major impact on food insecurity, inundation, disaster risks makes the task of long term end to deprivations/injustice even greater. It is a stand-alone goal in Agenda 2030. Crucially linked to health, poverty, hunger, growth, inequality, water, energy and all ecosystems. Actions/finances will come from COP21.

3.4. Agenda 2030 connects all dots and spells out the sustainable pathway. The transformations we need for reducing climate risks. Four biggest:

- Agriculture/energy systems
- Energy/energy systems
- Water/integrated water management
- Sustainable cities

All four would be realised if we implement the SDGs in full with integrity.

4. Paris COP is centrally concerned with mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and monitoring. But climate change needs sectoral mainstreaming, into local and national planning for deep-decarbonisation. Countries will need help for realising INDC's.
5. Agenda 2030 is the thread which connects the issues climate change, peaceful and just societies and irreversibly ending poverty on a sustainable development pathway. Insurance against economic, social, environmental shocks which can disrupt everything. Implementation is thus key.
6. Integration and implementation are the two key words which summarize the action in Agenda 2030.
7. The current structure of the intergovernmental apparatus neither promotes integration nor is it focused on implementation.
8. In fact the three faces of the work of the United Nations – analysis, policy making and operational activities – are especially weak on integration and implementation.
9. The issues paper has highlighted their weaknesses. So to briefly recap – while peaceful and just societies, climate change and sustainable development are conjoined at the hip – analysis, policy making and operational activities in all these areas are in deep silos.
10. The GA overcrowded agenda looks at the entire range of issues. But it has created its own firewalls with the committee system. The second and third committees are the most striking example of the firewall. The GA plenary and special sessions bring issues together. But there is serious

need for agenda reform in the 2nd/3rd committee and plenary. Strong case for merger of 2nd/3rd committee flowing from A 2030.

11. Security Council has addressed development issues and climate change and link with security. Generally through the Arrria formula – climate change, role of natural resources, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, gender issues. But discussions have been conceptual rather than operational. No connect with institutions on Peacebuilding and Security. Little connect with the development apparatus of the United Nations.
12. ECOSOC has made sporadic efforts – humanitarian segment and a half day on transition from peace to development. Some joint meetings with the Peace Building Commission e.g. a joint event on youth employment. But ECOSOC has become weak on legislative actions and credibility.
13. PBC is going through a deeper examination in the context of the review of the Peace building architecture. But the focus is essentially on individual country configuration. While the report goes to the GA and Security Council the follow-up actions can be much stronger than currently. The 15 year perspective and longer which should underline their activities is missing.
14. HLPF is the new institutional mechanism. SDG's implementation will help organize its work. This is an opportunity which should not be lost. First serious opportunity to bring together climate, sustainable development and peaceful/just societies.
15. Institutional implications
 - 15.1. All actors including the UN system, particularly UNFCCC to help requesting countries to incorporate climate change actions in national plans, strategies.
 - 15.2. UN Country teams to help in mainstreaming climate change and SDG's – especially for action in agriculture, water, energy and cities.
 - 15.3. Stronger and more accountable institutions with the knowledge and skills to better predict/manage/negotiate complex resource management questions before they get out of hand.
 - 15.4. Stable, transparent and long term sources of financing to be put in place and made available at low transaction costs to countries and local authorities facing resource conflicts and climate change.

- 15.5. Climate change and SDG learning to be a strong part of the training made available to decision makers at the national and local levels, in ways that are more systematic and recurrent than has ever been the case before.
- 15.6. Wholesale efforts to be build climate change and natural resource management into the formal education system so that future generations are better prepared to cope.
- 15.7. All intergovernmental bodies should be imbued with the spirit of integration/implementation.
- 15.8. Nature of reports requested has to change. Analysis promoting integrated policy response
- 15.9. Focus on implementation guided by stronger monitoring, review and evaluation.
- 15.10. Nature of legislation has to change in favour of operational/review orientation.
- 15.11. Reform in agendas/encourage joint consideration of issues.

16. Final observations

- Break the conceptual silos we are locked in wherever possible.
- Encourage quality engagement of relevant actors for effective multi stakeholder engagement – academia, civil society, business.
- Universality of actions, rather than pure North/South consideration.
- Evidence based reviews. Fill existing data and information gaps everywhere.
- Equal focus on the means of implementation – finance, capacity building, technology, trade, aid in the service of the most vulnerable.
- Change the way we transact business in the multilateral system – that is the simple message.