SDGs: change maker or BAU?

Leida Rijnhout
Coordinator Resource Justice and Sustainability

Brussels, 25 Jan 2017
Sustainable Development Goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
The environmental challenge is multiple

60% of ecosystems are now damaged or being used unsustainably.

140 billion tonnes of global extraction of natural resources per year if consumption stays at current rates.

3°C or more rise in temperature by the end of the century, due to doubling of GHG emissions by 2050, under BAU.

2 to 3 billion additional middle class consumers by 2030.
Social challenges: inequality, conflicts, stress, traffic jams, unemployment...
Sustainable development? Or recognition of limits!
The economist Herman Daly calculated that after a certain point of economic growth it will be unproductive: your growth will cause so much damage that your profit is below zero. (ISEW as indicator)
Environmental Space

Level of welfare

Use of natural resources pp

Ceiling (= overconsumption)

Floor (= dignity life line)

Developing countries

Industrial countries

Former Soviet countries

Based on Rochol
### MDGs versus SDGs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDGs</th>
<th>SDGs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on developing countries</td>
<td>Focus on all countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid and Trade agenda</td>
<td>Human Rights and Justice – redistribution of wealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No recognition of planetary boundaries</td>
<td>Living within the limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment is luxury</td>
<td>Environment is basics for developing well-being</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Material flows (cfr: natural resources, land grabbing, deforestation) from South to North to maintain our Global Northern’s lifestyles.

Active (manmade) process of enrichment and impoverishment
Who helps who?

- Developing countries have negative trade balance of \(-4,898,546\) million dollar (1980-2006)

- External debt: Developing countries pay \(433,284\) million dollar more, than what they receive (1990-2004)

- Ecological debt: (only calculated on EF) \(5,566,000\) million dollar per year.

Official Development Aid (ODA):

- \(= 1,528,050\) million dollar (1980-2006)

ODA per year (2003):

- \(56,000\) million dollar. 100x less than ecological debt!
Paradigm shift

Systemic change -> transition

Focus on
• Human rights
• Democracy
• Good governance
• Inequality
• Indicators: focus on well being

A developed country is not a place where the poor have cars. It's where the rich use public transport.

- Gustavo Petro, Mayor of Bogota
SDGs are universal

- This means all goals have to be implemented in EU too
- Not a North-South agenda anymore
- Paradigm shift in development thinking
- Which implies also a paradigm shift in “development cooperation” thinking

- Redistribution of wealth: fair share of resource use
- Domestic resources – tax shifts
- Policy coherence

Need for new national and regional Sustainable Development Strategies and concrete plans of implementation
A Civil Society Alliance to make the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda a reality
One's got to change the system, or one changes nothing.

George Orwell

Thanks !!

Leida.Rijnhout@foeurope.org