Sustainable Development Goals and Post2015 Process Science and Politics

Csaba Kőrösi, PR of Hungary to UN
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UN Context

Long term power struggle: who will lead the world by 2030? what should be the rules of the game? (past, future struggles influence minds)

On-going conflicts in the world – A/ different sensitivities; B/ race against time

SD – as a paradigm change? (from traditional development assistance to a broader strategy.)

Paradigm change within the same paradigm?
Economic context

Changing development trajectory: reshaping markets, rules of the game. („Pulling up the ladder?”)

Desires to re-arrange participation in the global value chain. (Zero sum game vs. expanding markets)

Short term competitiveness vs. burdens of transformation.

Desire to stop the growth / reduce of inequalities (between whom?)

Rethink the roles of governments and markets – regulation, taxation, cooperation, encouragement of R&D, ODA, capitalism?
Main objectives for different groups of countries

Developing countries
• Economic growth; supporting flow of assets; global governance; .....environmental sustainability?

Endangered costal countries
• + stop climate change

Developed countries
• Transition to SD - national responsibility
• Planetary boundaries – to be recognized by all
• Lead, expand technology markets
• Internal transformation by all: democracy, HR, institutions

Largest economies: no rules from outside
Involvement of Academia in the OWG Process

- Expert Committee – mapping problems of sustainability
- SDSN report - 2013
- 47 issue papers, over 120 presentations
- Huge number of side events
- Constant and direct contacts with OWG co-chairs
- Dilemma: what is scientifically advisable and what is politically feasible?
OWG Product

- Evidence based, but political compromise
- 17 SDGs, 169 targets (16 / 107) – all of global nature
- Achieving the targets: aggregated results of the local, national, regional actions. (New concept!)
The SDGs

1. End poverty in all its form everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long 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
The SDGs

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
The SDGs

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
Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development In the SDGs
Different approaches to SCP

🌟 Developing Cs perspective
  - SCP perceived as letting development space for the South
  - MoI, CBDR = call for political camp-building

🌟 Developed Cs perspective
  - Planetary boundaries,
  - More efficient consumption / production, but further growing living standards
  - Expanding technology markets
Implications for Scientific Community

✅ SD: Where are the caveats / bubbles?

✅ Scientific / technology break-through needed in a number of areas to meet aspiration level.

✅ Energy, water, food production and food security, medical science, pharmacology, research in advanced material, urban planning, transport, resource efficiency, climate research, biosphere

✅ Economic research: We'll implement what makes sense: identify economically reasonable blocks of a back-casting scenario.

✅ Good indicators needed

✅ New methods of data processing and evaluation

✅ Is the science-policy interphase working well?

✅ Translate aspirations to language of opportunities
Pathways exists that achieve all targets

- Different combinations of technological and lifestyle changes are possible
- Transformative action is required, with technological change greater than or similar to historic rates
- There is no fundamental trade-off between poverty eradication and environmental sustainability
Lessons learned from OWG

Transformation is happening anyway – now to the wrong direction, with accelerating speed.

Transformation should not be a zero sum game. (Lose-lose game.)

Think in systems. Stand-alone implementation of stand-alone goals may create bubbles that will burst.

SD is not a business as usual scenario with expensive add-ons.

System of social contracts needed: among stakeholders; among generations.

Health-check of supporting institutions necessary
Way Ahead

November / December: Synthesis report by the SG

January-September: IGN

July: Financial Summit (Addis-Abeba)

September: post2015 Summit

December: Climate Summit (Paris)

Cannot afford failure (Collapse of multilateral development system? Fall-back by years?)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!