

Architecture of Regional Mechanism on Sustainable Development: CSO Perspectives

Role, Function and Format of Future APFSD and HLPF

- The APFSD should have strategic agenda for its annual deliberations, ideally based on a regional roadmap for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda
- The strategic agenda (and Roadmap) should be defined among member-states with active participation and inputs from civil society
- APFSD should be the principal intergovernmental platform to ensure high-level commitment, coherence and synergy in the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development agenda
- AP-RCEM should continue to be the principal CSO mechanism for engagement with the APFSD and other sustainable development processes in the region

Role, Function and Format of Future APFSD and HLPF

- APFSD programme should include resource persons/speakers from civil society and grassroots movements in deliberation sessions and panels
- APFSD should allot specific spaces for CSO engagement

Objectives of Regional Review Mechanism

- Robust and dynamic Review and Accountability Framework
- Fostering knowledge sharing, reciprocal learning, promoting shared accountability of regional challenges
- No score card, punishments but enhancing ownership and accountability
- Should build on the relevant experiences
- Strong and accountable national review process

Important Elements

- Universal (may be voluntary and mandatory)
- Respecting national sovereignty, state led
- Should be based on human rights based approach and address poverty, inequality and exclusion
- Simplicity, flexibility, transparency, inclusive and widest participation including civil society
- Should attract highest political leadership and accountability
- Should have incentive for countries to participate
- Should be rooted in/strengthen national Review mechanism (its most important) and feed into the HLPF

What we need to review

- A range of issues integrated with the SD
- Integration of three elements of SD
- Sustainable development & Human rights (UPR style)
- Trade & sustainability (UNECE style)
- Environmental Performance Review (UNECE style)
- Mol and Technology transfer
- Outcomes (not another GSDR but should integrate capacity building, assistance, FU to incentivize the process)
- Crosscutting and long term poverty reduction strategies

What elements we can have from other mechanisms

- UPR, widest acceptability (mandatory, peer reviewed, variety of sources of information, strong accountability)
- African Peer Review Mechanism (strengthening national capacities and institutions, field visits)
- OECD-DAC (extensive, report is discussed internally then make public, strong follow up, field visits, role of MGs/stakeholders)
- Technical and financial assistance is an integral part, without assistance, there no meaningful review
- Commission on World Food Security (equality of stakeholder participation)

Thematic and mutual country reviews

- Thematic reviews allows depth of discussions
- Has a role for regional institutions, UN bodies, Universities, should benefit from the inter agency group on the MDGs
- Mutual country assessments allows exploring common challenges, cross border challenges, opportunities within the region, breadth of coverage (set of goals can be taken every year)
- Outcomes can be shared in the APFSD

Process

- Can be split in two phases, duration to be determined by countries by consensus
- First phase should look into readiness, capacity, commitment, adequacy of resources, creating a consensus among states on the elements, methods and processes of rev
- Second phase should have full fledged review
- Should be followed by regular assessments of review mechanism, to make it dynamic and incorporate lessons

Key is National processes

- SDGs to be incorporated in national policies & programmes to give statutory force
- SG suggests, three reports, national, UN Institutions, stakeholders
- Parliamentary oversight to ensure political ownership and leadership
- Widest stakeholders participation
- Strong institutions (generally env ministry does reporting, very small and not enough say in inter-ministerial coordination)
- We cant afford to fail now, time has run out

Regional Implementation of UNEA Decisions and Regional Inputs to UNEA

- Need for regular meetings (i.e., annual, biennial) of environment ministers/senior officials in Asia-Pacific to discuss implementation of UNEA Decisions and regional inputs to UNEA
- Define long/medium-term agenda and work programme for the Asia-Pacific meeting of ministers/senior officials to provide strategic direction to discussions beyond the usual thematic conferences
- The agenda and processes of the regional UNEA meetings should be closely linked and planned with the APFSD to ensure coherence and synergy

Regional Implementation of UNEA Decisions and Regional Inputs to UNEA

- Regional UNEA meetings must provide and support a mechanism for effective and meaningful civil society engagement
- Regional inputs to UNEA must incorporate the views of civil society through an effective engagement mechanism that ensures and respects active participation and interaction
- The right of civil society to self-organize and develop an effective and meaningful regional mechanism for engagement must be respected and supported

Civil Society Engagement in Regional Implementation & Review of SD Agenda

- Effective and meaningful mechanism/s for engagement at the regional level should be developed and established to enable the participation of civil society in SD governance processes
- The design and development of such mechanism should be led by civil society and should be inclusive, transparent and accountable
- The development and creation of such mechanisms should be welcomed and supported by government and intergovernmental institutions
- Should be aimed at establishing a regional mechanism where governments and civil society deliberate on sustainable development matters on an equal footing (i.e, CFS)

Elements of a Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism

- Inclusive and transparent
- Enables robust, substantive and dynamic participation of grassroots movements and civil society from across the region
- Ensures fair and equitable representation of various constituencies and sub-regions
- Have sound accountability mechanisms to ensure credibility and legitimacy
- Work is built on concrete national and local experiences in sustainable development
- Facilitates civil society engagement in intergovernmental processes and efforts on sustainable development at the regional level
- Provides concrete means for regional positions and voices to be heard and contribute to global processes

Core Principles for Civil Society Engagement in SD Processes

- **Self-organization:** respecting civil society's right and capacity to organize their ranks in these engagements
- **Respect for Civil Society views and positions:** the diversity and uniqueness of views and contributions of civil society based on the experiences of communities and grassroots movements which should be respected and defended
- **Avenue for grassroots and community voices:** civil society engagement in national and regional processes should serve as effective and meaningful avenues for communities and grassroots movements to be part of deliberations and decision making in sustainable development governance