Stakeholder Forum
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Putting Scotland at the Core of Post-Rio+20 Processes & SDGs

Farooq Ullah
Executive Director

Rio+20: Success or Failure?

- "Was Rio+20 a success or a failure?"
  - Simplistic and reductive, the answer is more nuanced
  - Successes and failures must be itemised
  - Rio+20 was the starting point of various processes
- Time will be the truest judge of Rio+20.
- But time is not on our side; we are sitting on a socio-ecological time bomb.

Rio+20 Outcomes

1. **Intergovernmental Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Open Working Group (OWG) report by ~2014 - §248**
2. **Call for integration with post-2015 through UN Task Team - §249**
3. **High level political forum (HLPF) by Sept 2013 - §84-86**
4. **Finance for SD strategy by 2014 - §256**
5. **Technology transfer recommendations by 2013 - §273**
6. **Strengthen UNEP by 2013 (universal membership & secure funding) - §88**
7. 10YFP on SCP adopted 2012, now to be operationalised - §226
8. Use of oceans beyond national jurisdictions by 2015 - §161 & 162
9. Beyond GDP - §38a
10. Registry of voluntary commitments - §283
11. Green economy policies - §56-74
12. Integration of 3 dimensions of SD across UN - §93
13. SG report on Future Generation/Intergenerational Solidarity
14. SG's Zero Hunger challenge

Post-2015 Development Agenda

- New development agenda must be an urgent priority for the international community.
  - Further integrate development and environment agendas
- Must draw on learning from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and address multiple interlinked global challenges (e.g. climate change, resource scarcity, governance, equity and resilience).
- Central to the post-2015 development agenda will be new global goals.
- **<u>Integration & Convergence:</u> One development agenda and one set of global development goals, both of which have sustainable development at the heart with the aim of eradicating poverty.**

Integration and its Challenges

- Two ways to achieve integration:
  1. Top-down – architecture and mechanics of processes
  2. Bottom-up – bringing together different stakeholder communities

- Four "i" barriers to integration:
  1. Institutional
  2. Ideological
  3. Intellectual
  4. Implemental

Where Are We Now?

REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2012
R:13-09-C

Fulfilling the Rio+20 Promises:
Reviewing Progress since the UN Conference on Sustainable Development

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS AND RESEARCHERS
Amy Cutter
Jeannet Lingán
Jack Cornforth
Sarah Bonham
Stakeholder Forum

Chelsea Phipps
Jacob Scherr
John Romano
Sam Reynolds
Natural Resources Defense Council

CONTRIBUTORS
Farooq Ullah
Stakeholder Forum

Carolina Herrera
Jake Schmidt
Lisa Suatoni
Samantha Beckerman
Natural Resources Defense Council

[Read Report Here]

Fulfilling the Rio+20 Promises

- Review of the progress made to date on key **negotiated and voluntary** commitments made at Rio+20.

- Two Purposes:

  1. Communications tool

  2. Accountability mechanism

Negotiated Commitments

- Selected 14 significant and tangible commitments as basis of report
- Too early to assess impact, but overall progress reasonable
- Reviewed implementation based upon **progress to date**
- Plus four important accountability dimensions that we believe are the building blocks for effective, transparent and democratic implementation:
    1. **Target date**
    2. **Work plan**
    3. **Stakeholder engagement**
    4. **Transparency**

Rio+20: Landmark Commitments

Commitment	Progress so far	Target date	Work plan	Stakeholder engagement mechanisms	Transparency	Overall assessment
High level political forum						VERY GOOD
Sustainable Development Goals						GOOD
Financing sustainable development						GOOD

High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- Overall Assessment – "***Very Good***"
- HLPF has been established and its first meeting is scheduled for Sep 2013
- Still key processes & issues to resolve, including the modalities for stakeholder engagement and agenda-setting
- Unlikely to begin any substantive work until procedural arrangements have been agreed upon

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Overall assessment – "***Good***"
- OWG has been established and is on track to submit its report in 2014.
- Efforts made to ensure transparency and stakeholder engagement
- Lack of clarity on the OWG's activities after Feb 2013
- Convergence of SDGs and post-MDG processes?

Sustainable Development Finance

- Overall assessment – "***Good***"
- 30 member Intergovernmental Committee established, first meeting August 2013
- Developed a work plan and is on track to submit its report in 2014.
- No formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement have been agreed.
- Lack of transparency - Both the meetings to establish the Committee and the sessions of the Committee itself have been closed

68th Session of UN General Assembly

- Very high interest levels (stakeholders and governments).
- Outcome Document of MDGs Special Event:
  - global call to 'reinforce the international community's commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development.'
  - formal acknowledgement of a 2015 Summit
  - ensure that all stakeholders are consulted in the new 'organisational modalities for the Summit,' and that these modalities themselves are open, transparent and inclusive.

Accountability & Advocacy Key

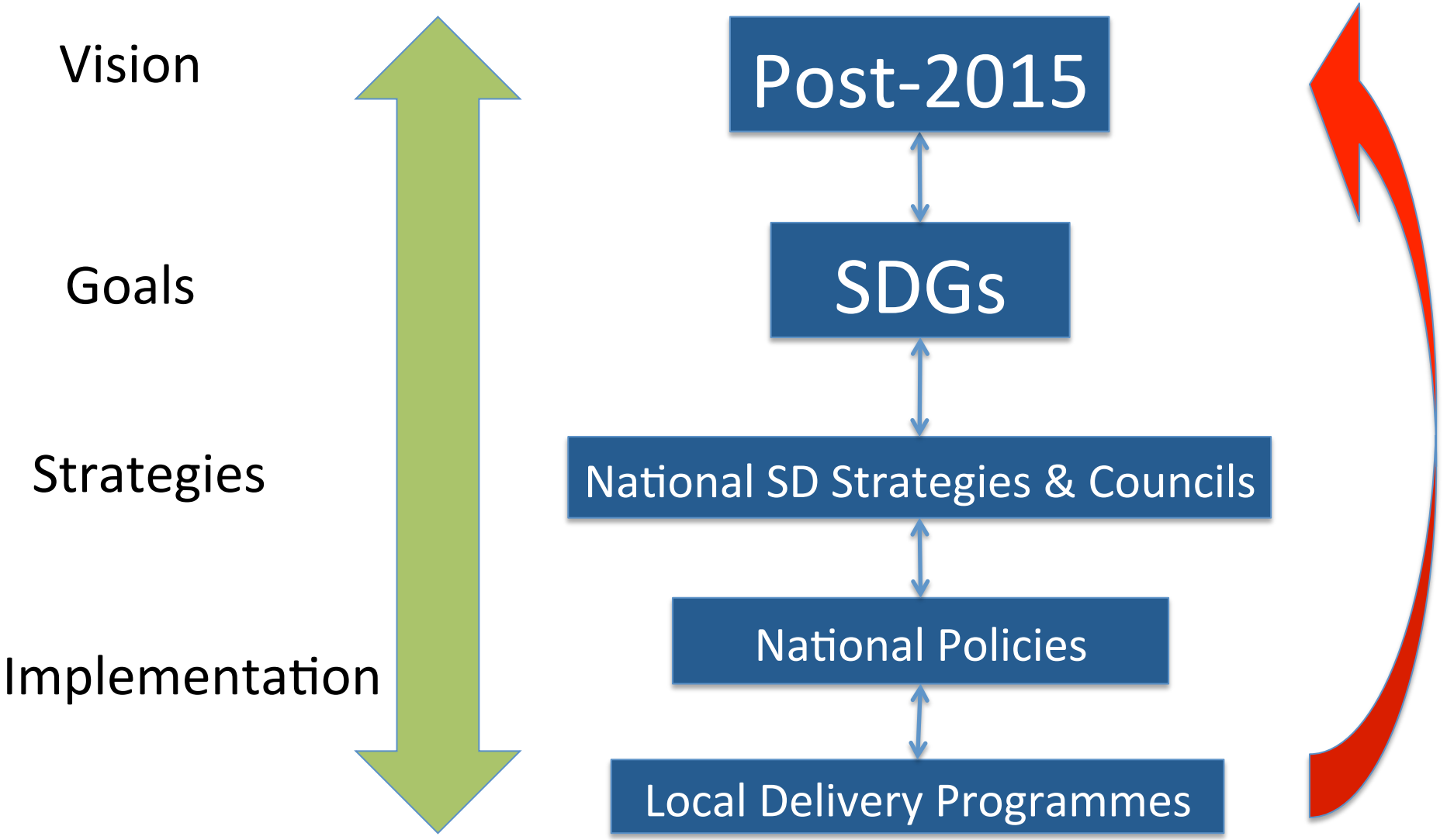
- Good progress made on key commitments
- Need to keep pushing as challenges will increase.
- Stakeholders have key roles in:
  1. Raising awareness
  2. Providing expert input
  3. Advocacy & shaping decisions
  4. Implementation & accountability
- Advanced **accountability** and **advocacy** mechanisms needed to:
  a) ensure promises made at Rio+20 are fulfilled; and
  b) develop a bold and ambitious post-2015 agenda.

Role of Scotland?

- **Four Potential Roles:**

1. Raising awareness and creating dialogue:
    - Public
    - Media
    - Expert stakeholders
2. Shaping the SDGs - www.sdgseinventory.org
    - Form thematic groups, e.g. on a water goal
3. Undertaking political advocacy at home and abroad
    - 4 political levels – Scotland, UK, EU and international
4. Ensuring delivery and “vertical alignment”

Vertical Alignment



National Action

- Some key elements will need to be addressed everywhere.
- At the national and local levels we must now:
  - Improve **government and legislative machinery** for sustainable development;
  - Model new and better processes for engaging stakeholder in **participatory decision-making** for sustainable development;
  - Create or renew **national sustainable development strategies** or frameworks, particularly in light of the new global goals;
  - Improve **sustainable economic policies**, instruments and programmes in line with green economy principles; and
  - Deliver formal and informal training and **education for sustainable development**.

Thank You

Farooq Ullah

Stakeholder Forum

fullah@stakeholderforum.org

www.stakeholderforum.org