

Science and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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.... a global platform to deliver:

- **Solution-oriented research** for sustainability, addressing environmental change and development challenges to satisfy human needs for food, water, energy, health;
- **Timely information for policy-makers** by generating the knowledge that will support existing and new global and regional integrated assessments.

Possible role of Future Earth in providing scientific input into the development of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)!?

Rio+20: “The Future We Want” outcome document

Governments agreed to produce a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Goals – focused on priority areas – should incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages. They should be applicable to all countries, developing and developed alike.
- Should be integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.
- Should not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the MDGs.

Proposed list of SDGs (by Colombia, Guatemala, and UAE)

- sustainable food security
- integrated water management
- energy for sustainable development
- sustainable and resilient cities
- healthy and productive oceans
- capacity of natural systems to support human welfare
- efficiency and sustainability in resource use
- enhanced employment and livelihood security

Rio+20 outcome document - on SDGs

(248). “..... An **open working group** shall be constituted no later than at the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly and shall comprise **30 representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups**, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographic representation. “

- Input from the scientific community
- Submit a report to the 68th session of the General Assembly (September 2013)
- [To be adopted by the 70th session of the General Assembly in 2015]

Open Working Group on SDGs

- 30 member slots – but 71 members (governments)
- constituted by UN General Assembly in January 2013
- one meeting each in March and April 2013
- **input phase:** six more meetings until February 2014 (PoW)
- **output phase:** negotiations to start in March 2014

Developing post-2015 global goals (unfinished MDGs + SDGs)

Main actors:

- UN General Assembly
- OWG on SDGs (intergovernmental, reporting directly to UN-GA)

UN-SG initiatives:

- High-level Panel of Eminent Persons (Final Report to SG in May 2013)
- UN system Task Team (input to SG reports and technical support to OWG)
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network (technical input to SG reports, HLP, and OWG)

OWG – 17 to 19 April 2013: Outcome of second meeting

- **only one set of goals**, including the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs
- overarching issue of poverty eradication (related social ills)
- **transformational goals**
- each goal allowing for recognition of national circumstances (adoption of differentiated targets and/or time lines)
- **sustainable development partnership**
- Group of 77 and China: global trade and investment rules, finances, technology transfer and IPRs
- US et alii: cautioned against **“trying to do too much”**
- Europe

Three possible types of goals (SDGs)

- (i) Human development related goals with **little environmental impact** associated with their attainment - e.g. education
- (ii) Human development related goals with **important environmental dimensions** – e.g. water, food, energy
- (iii) Goals related to **common management of global resources** – e.g. atmosphere, oceans (biodiversity-?, forests-?)

Scientific input into OWG, currently co-organized jointly by **UN-DESA, ICSU and ISSC**



Modalities of input:

- suggested scientific literature
- specific scientific papers [2]
(Griggs et alii, *Nature* **495**,305 – 307, 2013)
- science – policy briefs (e.g. Rio+20 policy briefs)
- expert group meetings (EGM at UN New York, March 2013)
- invited panellist(s) at OWG meetings
- specific scientific digests

What input could Future Earth start providing?

- prepare scientific digests and policy briefs (e.g. on oceans, forests, sustainable cities)
- suggest scientific experts as panellists for OWG meetings
- act as co-organizer of expert group meetings
- become formally recognized as scientific advisory body for SDGs process, notably implementation of the Goals, as from 2015