

Keynote Address
ESDN Conference
1 October 2018 Vienna, Austria



Stakeholder-Policy Cooperation in the Age of the SDGs:

What new approaches are
required to be successful?

Monika Linn
Principal Adviser and Chief
Sustainable Development and Gender Unit

Introduction: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



UNECE

Who we are.

- UNECE is **one of five UN Regional Commissions**.



- UNECE includes **56 member States** in Europe, North America and Asia.

What we do as UNECE.

- UNECE sets **norms and standard setting**, e.g. for road safety.
- UNECE acts as a **think-tank**.
- UNECE has a **convening function**.

Introduction: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



UNECE

What we do as Sustainable Development and Gender Unit.

- Coordinating the SDG process in the region, including the organization of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region.

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION



Multi-stakeholder
conference for
practical peer-learning



Region's official
input to High-level
Political Forum



Save the date:
21-22 March 2019,
Geneva

Introduction: Stakeholder-policy cooperation



UNECE

Stakeholder-

policy

cooperation

What?

Groups representing
key sectors of society

work
with

official representatives
and institutions

on equal terms through
policy dialogues and
concrete collaborative
activities.

Why?

Increased legitimacy and ownership of decisions.

Transformation processes require all actors.

Increased likelihood of effective implementation.

Stocktaking: The evolution of stakeholder cooperation



UNECE



Earth Summit, 1992



“One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is **broad public participation** in decision making.”
Agenda 21, Preamble, Chapter 23.2.

Major Groups



Women



Children and
Youth



Indigenous
Peoples



Non-
Governmental
Organizations



Local
Authorities



Workers and
Trade Unions



Scientific and
Technological
Community



Farmers

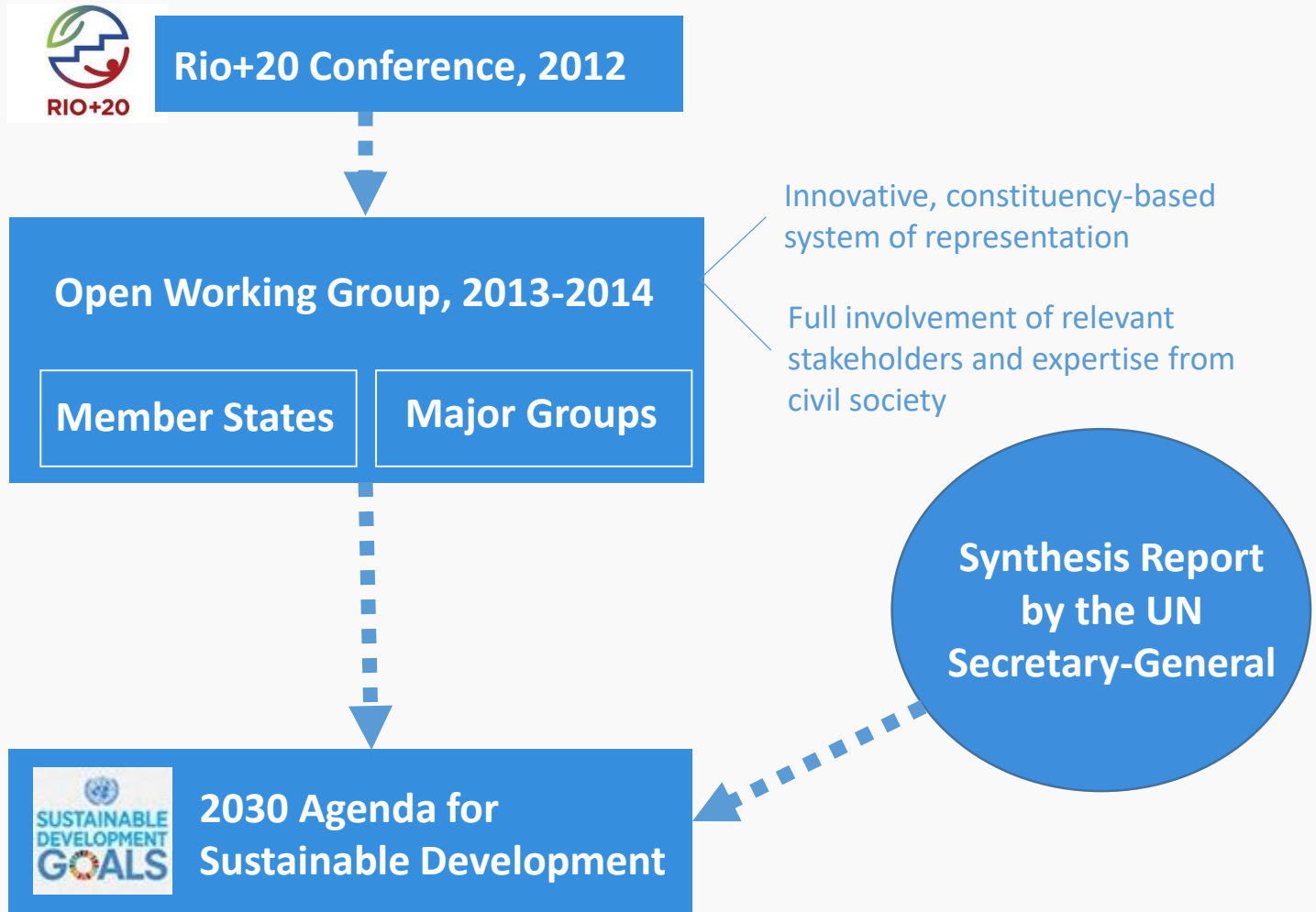


Business
and Industry

Post-2015 Process: Stakeholder engagement



UNECE



The SDGs: A more inclusive Agenda



UNECE



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan.” – 2030 Agenda



SDG 16.7 “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.”



SDG 17.17 “Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.”



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The forum should “promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level.” (A/RES/67/290)

REGIONAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

The forum benefits from “annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders”.
(A/RES/67/290)

The SDGs:

Mechanisms for stakeholder engagement



UNECE

Regional and global level

- Structured engagement mechanism through Major Groups.
- Comprehensive participatory opportunities for Major Groups at intergovernmental meetings (HLPF, RFSD).

Local and national level

- Modalities and mechanisms for stakeholder engagement vary from country to country.
- A rich diversity of stakeholders: governments, parliaments, civil society, private sector, academia etc.

Mechanisms for stakeholder engagement differ between local/ national and regional/ global level.

Barriers to multi-stakeholder cooperation



UNECE

Potential barriers to stakeholder engagement.

Public

Lack of SDG awareness

Stakeholders

Restricted capacity to engage

Conflicting interests btw stakeholders

Governments

Lack of institutional cultures towards engagement

Lack of channels for stakeholder involvement

Low levels of trust towards stakeholders

United Nations

Restricted capacity to include all relevant stakeholders

A glimpse into the future: Multi-stakeholder cooperation



UNECE

Where stakeholder engagement needs to be strengthened.

National and local level

- Stakeholders can play important role in **increasing public awareness** of SDGs.
- Stakeholders need to be included in the process of implementing, monitoring, and reviewing policies related to sustainable development, **including VNRs**.

Regional and global level

- Inclusion of **all relevant stakeholders** in processes, e.g. private sector and academia.
- More opportunities for **practical exchange between different stakeholders** on solutions for SDG implementation.

A glimpse into the future: Multi-stakeholder cooperation



UNECE

What needs to be done.

- Build capacity of **civil society** to be informed and engage.
- Build capacity within **governments to engage with key national stakeholders**, create institutional cultures and attitudes towards engagement and inclusion. Share **successful mechanisms** with other countries.
- Mobilize **funds** for stakeholder involvement.
- Build **trust** between stakeholders.

Where we want to be.

- Leave **no one behind**.
- **“Whole-of-society approach”**.
- Create a **broad sense of ownership** of 2030 Agenda.



Thank you!