

Second Committee Advocacy Working Group

GA Second Committee

Informal report on Bangkok Meeting by Mr. John Pullinger, UK, Chair, 46th Session Statistical Commission

Thursday, 5 November 2015

Member State Discussion following informal report:

Brazil: We agreed that the IAEG would report back to the political process through the GA, so very thankful for providing this opportunity. Bangkok meeting took place a few days ago. Some concerns: We are of the view that there is a delicate balance between technical consistency of indicators and political coherence. There needs to be political coherence with the narrative, that is both inclusive and universal. Indicators should not reduce the scope and reach of targets. This exercise should not be business as usual, civil society is important, much more than was the case with MDGs.

Based on preliminary inputs from Bangkok: Green, yellow, gray designations. Regarding the indicator on target on poverty line, SDG1, we are seriously concerned with decision taken by the World Bank to revise to \$1.90 in a process that didn't take into account methodological concerns presented by his govt and others. We do not believe that this decision by WB should apply automatically to our work here, because our concerns are broader.

There is a deadline until 20 November for countries to express concerns about green indicators, so we want to flag these issues. Very important, complicated and delicate. We should not be pressured to do something because there is a deadline of March next year. Work plans are important, but we need sufficient time to deal with complications.

Nigeria: Would like clarity on green indicators, and on proposed methodology and to stress importance of political oversight. Respect national space. Some countries had reservations on 3.6 and 3.7.

Amb. Kamau, Kenya: Our delegation is very pleased with progress that has been made so far. Welcome reassurance that this is an open, inclusive and transparent process. It is indeed with these indicators where the rubber meets the road in terms of implementation. Having said that, it is important that Stats not forget that while this is a technical process, that there is a continued expectation that there will be political oversight by this group, that includes, GA, HLPF and ECOSOC at some point. It is imperative that they share not just a briefing, but a more specific sharing of information, maybe even some preliminary set of indicators to give us a

sense of what is happening on the technical line. Need some kind of outcome shared with Member States in advance of the meeting. Ultimately, these indicators will need the political blessing of the GA following review by ECOSOC and HLPF.

Appreciate that there is a three tier system of indicators, as there are established methodologies and new methodologies.

This idea of no one being left behind, it is not only about only individuals, but also that no nation or region should be left behind. So Stats should reach out to regional groupings.

Pleased that Mr. Pullinger has signaled that there will be another meeting before March. What they cannot manage, they can leave to the HLPF, where some of the targets and indicators may be politically challenging. Important also to work on platform on capacity building.

Holy See: Like other delegations, hope that there will be continued political oversight by states. Goal 5.6 received a green light before it began, concerned because it doesn't reflect hard won challenges. It is not necessarily enough to ensure that these concerns are not only recognized but met. Please explain delicate balance fought for not only within agenda but on indicators.

Colombia: Bangkok was a positive meeting where progress was made. Could we have a dialogue on the follow up and review which would be more interactive with ECOSOC, allow us to have political criteria. Would like to know whether you could throw light on the 65 gray indicators. On the one hand there is data and methodology, but indicators must also be considered from the political POV, what is the situation with the gray tier?

Finally, the regional commissions could also have an interaction with Stats.

Response by Mr. Pullinger:

Response to Brazil: On having a report, recognize that this meeting only took place last week. On question delicate balance between technical consistency and political coherence, we are focused on the precise task. It is not our job to interpret the goals and targets, to reduce or amplify our scope. We have sought to be inclusive and transparent, not business as usual, wide interactions with civil society.

On point on 1.1 relating to poverty, our task is to make sure we have an indicator that reflects the target of \$1.25.

We have until 20 November to get it right. Our roadmap requires us to prepare report in March – as ‘Indicators 1.0’ – however IAEG will continue to have a standing mandate for as long as necessary. Our work won’t stop in March 2016, but it may be only the beginning.

In response to Nigeria, they are green because members of expert group have reached a consensus. However even the green ones are at different levels of methodological maturity. Will be transparent about status of development.

In response to Nigeria & Holy See on targets related 5.6, 3.7 sexual reproductive health, there was considerable political discussion on this, wording on target was very carefully balanced. If we have precise comments from delegations that we don’t have it quite right, we will receive them. This is one example where the interaction between technical and political is essential.

In response to Kenya, we endorse your point about political oversight. Once Stats Com has come up with technical proposal, next goes to ECOSOC for endorsement. We hear message about information sharing, we have published at every stage of the process.

On making sure that no nation or region is left behind, we seek to respect broader architecture of this process that includes discussions about indicators at regional level. We see a series of parallel discussions at regional and country levels. This will take a significant amount of time. For some countries it is a matter of capacity building. Some countries will need a substantial boost of resources.

In response to Holy See – on target 5.6 – we want to make sure that we hear your views, still time for it to be amended if necessary.

In response to Colombia, we have a process for involving ECOSOC. Formally, there is this technical process with political input. The Stats Comm will receive the report for review by ECOSOC, that will include consideration by regional commissions.

On 65 gray indicators, they are gray at moment because have not received technical consensus. The more we can understand political concerns, the better we can meet these concerns technically.

Francesca Perucci, UN Statistical Division: The report of the Bangkok meeting is not available yet, but since Monday last week the list of indicators as agreed is on the web site as is the work plan. A history of all the documents is on the web site. The list of indicators from Bangkok has been sent to all NSOs.

On gray indicators, most of these indicators have 2 or 3 approaches from methodological point of view. The group has agreed to produce a background document that will address the gray indicators.

On issue level of ambition, we quickly realized we need more than one indicator per target.

PGA: While this is difficult technical work, we should still meet the deadlines so we can implement as quickly as possible.

Fourth Meeting

Wednesday, 28 October 2015

FYI -- The next 2nd Committee advocacy meeting will take place on Wednesday, 11 November, 1:30-2:30 pm, S-26MM2

Alberto Padova, DESA/NGO Branch: Update on Second Committee informal consultations with NGOs on methods of work on Thursday, 22 October

The Second Committee Chair was very happy with the outcome and turnout from both civil society and Member States. There were over 40 government representatives present at the meeting. The discussion very lively, there was genuine dialogue among speakers and participants as a result of the excellent moderation by Barbara Adams. The Second Committee Chair is now reviewing the comments, suggestions and recommendations that were put forward by civil society, take stock of these inputs as well as those from Member States. He will then come up with some suggestions that he will plan to share with the Second Committee as well as with Chair of the Third Committee and President of ECOSOC. He is keen to move the agenda forward and to establish NGO consultations as a regular feature. He doesn't see a quick resolution on the issue of Second Committee agenda and methods of work based on this discussion. There was a request that the NGO statements and discussion summaries by DESA & IISD be posted on the UN Sustainable Development Platform web site.

General update on Second Committee by Lotta Tahtinen, DESA/Stakeholder Engagement

A number of new resolutions were tabled: International Years; Triennial Conferences for Oceans and Seas (Sweden and Fiji). The resolution on Agenda 21 that touches upon the HLPF is being prepared and will be submitted by the end of the week or early next week by G77. There will be informal consultations to be held tomorrow on climate change resolution – see info in UN Journal. Consultations are also ongoing on agriculture & technology (another standard

resolution). Although the deadline for submissions has passed, other standard resolutions and sub-items have not yet been tabled.

The discussions on the macro-economics and FFD cluster have just concluded. Daniel Platz of DESA/FFD Office will give an update on draft resolutions on FFD at the next advocacy meeting. There is a new draft resolution to be tabled on consumer protection supported by UNCTAD. Discussions next week will take up the Habitat item that will discuss the outstanding modalities on MGoS participation. While ‘informal informals’ are normally closed, but you can speak to the facilitator to see if you can remain in the room. The facilitators are indicated in the UN Journal general announcement. The Committee is scheduled to complete its work by Thanksgiving (25 November).

For information on the draft resolutions: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/70/proposals.shtml>

Discussion

- A resolution tabled on international year of women and water hasn't been seen it yet.
- The Habitat III resolution normally tabled by G77 with Kenya taking the lead will be discussed on 4 November.
- On the Second Committee agenda and methods of work, a variety of positions are becoming apparent. Some would rather move quickly on specific and technical aspects while others would like to have a deeper discussion about alignment of agendas with 2030 Agenda. Positions are not consensual as yet, so the chair needs to get a good sense of what is politically feasible now or consider appointing a facilitator to take the lead on drafting legislation.
- Regarding links between Second and Third Committee agendas, there are a number of issues, like women. One question that has been raised is whether there should be a systematic review of these agendas to address overlaps and to see whether all the key objectives and areas of Agenda 2030 are fully reflected. Not so on all issues, like inequality.
- Stakeholders may want to do some analysis on the overlap of Second and Third Committee agenda. Louise Kantrow mentioned that the International Chamber of Commerce is developing a matrix to look at this issue.
- About Agenda 21 resolution, this is a traditional resolution considered every year. It used to give guidance to CSD, and with the establishment of the HLPF this resolution has included guidance on the HLPF. Member States may stress this year an outstanding question on SCP, an interim arrangement to be put in place which is going to conclude this year. Member States may also give guidance on the division of labor between HLPF and ECOSOC in this regard.
- GA will be receiving a report by the SG to be submitted during 70th session outlining recommendations on the overall review of post-2015. A questionnaire has been released to receive inputs from governments, UN agencies and all other stakeholders with a deadline of 15 November. The UN welcomes broader submissions by MGoS. The questionnaire is fairly long,

so don't feel that you need to answer every single question. All inputs from MGoS and Member States will be made available on the UN DESA web site.

- At an expert group meeting on the Commission on Social Development (CSocD54), there was a recognition that this will be the first functional ECOSOC commission to take place after the SDGs has been adopted. How will this change the function of the commission?

- The functional commissions will have a critical role on the review and follow up of the agenda. How they will relate to HLPF is a critical part of the SG report.

Third Meeting

Wednesday, 21 October 2015

Notes by Jeffery Huffines, CIVICUS

Lotta Tahtinen, DESA/DSD Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator; Alberto Padova, DESA/OESC NGO Branch; and Daniel Platz, DSA/FFD Office, offered briefings on the work of the Second Committee.

Alberto Padova of DESA/NGO Branch reviewed final preparations for the ECOSOC NGO consultation with the Second Committee that took place on Thursday, 22 October. There are 11 confirmed speakers and 70 confirmed RSVPs from stakeholders. So far Australia, Brazil, Gambia, Guyana, Japan, Switzerland delegates would be speaking in their personal capacities. The initial scenario was that following the discussion by Member States on methods of work that took place on 9 October, a resolution on methods of work would be drafted, however it is clear that Member States need more time to come to a consensus. Now once all inputs are received, the Chair of the Second Committee will initiate a consultation with the Chair of the Third Committee and President of ECOSOC early next year after which legislation will be drafted.

Daniel Platz of DESA/FFD Office gave an overview of the agenda items on macroeconomic policy questions and FFD. On the FFD Forum and follow up, the devil is in the details. Given the fact that the FFD Forum is under ECOSOC, it is likely that the details of FFD follow up will be worked out by Member States in both the 2nd Comm and ECOSOC.

Second Meeting

Wednesday, 14 October 2015

Notes by Jeffery Huffines, CIVICUS

Present: Cristina Diez, ATD Fourth World; Catherine Skopic, Anglican Office at UN; Kathy Adler, Solar Cookers Int'l; A.J. Lederman, Solar Cookers Int'l; Lea Fellus, ICC; Ana Maria Lebada, IISD; Arelys Bellorini, World Vision; Elizabeth Lockwood, CBM/IDDC; John Romano, TAP Network; Liam Kinkaid, TAP Network

WebEx: Naiara Costa; Eleanor Blomstrom, WEDO; Katherine Kline, Lily Schwabe, Temple of Understanding; Mireia Rozas Simon; Natalie Draisin, Pedro Guzman; Rodrigo Messias; Param

Update by Lotta Tahtinen, DESA/DSD, on sustainable development items of Second Committee.

- SD items, (a)-(h), will be discussed all day on Monday, 19th, and Tuesday morning, 20th at CR 2 (also webcast). The PGA will open the proceedings on Monday after which senior UN officials will introduce SG reports relevant for each sub-agenda item, followed by a list of speakers for Member States.
- One resolution has already been tabled by G77/OASIS, to set up a pattern of conferences on a triennial basis on oceans and seas, with the first conference in 2017 in Fiji, thereafter every 3 years.

Update by Alberto Padova, DESA/NGO Branch

- The Second Committee will convene informal consultations with ECOSOC NGOs on the agenda and work of the Second Committee on 22 October 2014, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in CR 2.
- The Chair is sending a clear message that he doesn't want to do business as usual and so is very keen to engage civil society.
- Barbara Adams of Global Policy Forum will serve as a moderator. She will hold a planning meeting with designated NGO speakers on Monday, 19 October at 3 pm. (Has since been postponed.)
- In response to their call for speakers, DESA has received a number of candidates from a broad group of representatives, including from the Major Groups. The deadline for additional speakers nominations has been extended until the end of the week.
- There will be 5 minutes for NGO speakers and 3 minutes for Member States respondents. In addition to official speakers, there will be an open discussion so that others may speak from the floor.
- When looking at 2030 Agenda, thanks to the contributions of MGoS, one can see that many priorities of civil society are currently reflected. But where are these priorities reflected by the Second Committee agenda? For example, there is an unprecedented focus on inequality in the 2030 Agenda, which may be discussed by the 2nd Committee under the poverty eradication item and globalization agenda item. Yet are those agenda

items sufficient and adequate, or should we consider the possibility of a more explicit topic for discussion?

- In terms of efficiency, there are the vast number of reports produced by the SG secretariat, for the large number of resolutions that Member States then adopt based upon these reports.
- Last Friday, 9 October, Member States began a discussion to look at how to make the Second Committee agenda more streamlined and coherent with the 2030 agenda. Views are divided, with developed countries recommending quick action while the G77 is asserting that the diverse agenda of the Second Committee requires further thoughtful deliberation before consensus may be achieved.

Discussion

- It was pointed out that NGOs have engaged the 2nd & 3rd committees for years, so NGOs are in a position to help Member States to enhance their work. One area in need of improvement is the engagement of civil society in the work of the GA Committees. There are new and emerging issues to be addressed, such as inequality, as well as other cross-cutting issues that may be taken up as agenda items or sub-items. There are also root causes that need to be taken up.
- When you look at 2030 Agenda, issues on the 3rd Comm are important. There are other areas such as health and education that don't seem to be reflected on any agenda, so we need to think about how all issues of the 2030 Agenda will be involved. To complicate matters, there is also the work of the GA plenary where there are ongoing plenary issues on NCDs and malaria also unfolding.
- We discussed follow up on recommendations made at the 7 October meeting:
 - If necessary, we still need to find a volunteer to draft a letter to the Third Committee Chair requesting that they organize an informal discussion with NGOs like the Second Committee.
 - Regarding the idea of pushing a paragraph on the participation of NGOs in the Second Committee, it was pointed out that the G77 has been discussing the draft resolutions among themselves since August so it is too late to recommend entire paragraphs. Once the draft resolutions are tabled, any new language on civil society must be precise and concise.
 - It was recommended that we put together a “best practices” brief of MGoS/civil society engagement modalities for UN/Member State consideration.

Background material

- Second Committee Chair Remarks on working methods (9 Oct):
<https://papersmart.unmeetings.org/media2/7652242/chairs-input-to-speaking-points.pdf>
- Press Release Summary of Second Committee (9 October):

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gaef3423.doc.htm>

- Webcast of Second Committee working methods discussion:
<http://webtv.un.org/search/second-committee-6th-meeting-70th-general-assembly/4546373979001?term=Second%20Committee#full-text>
- IISD Summary of Second Committee (9 Oct):
<http://sd.iisd.org/news/second-committee-discusses-alignment-with-2030-agenda/>
- IISD RS story summary on Second Committee session on poverty eradication and other development issues (agenda item 24):
<http://sd.iisd.org/news/second-committee-discusses-poverty-eradication-womens-empowerment/>
- IISD Brief on UN Summit commitments towards implementation:
<http://sd.iisd.org/policy-updates/the-un-sustainable-development-summits-commitments-a-first-step-towards-implementation/>

First Meeting

Wednesday, 7 October 2015

Notes by Jeffery Huffines, CIVICUS

Present: Frances Zainoeddin, Gray Panthers; Sara Burke, FES; Kathy Adler, Solar Cookers Int'l; Bette Levy, Soroptimist Int'l; Norma Maldonado, Peoples Coalition on Food Sovereignty; Maruxa Cardama, Communitas; Orsolya Bartha, IDA; Elizabeth Lockwood, CBM/IDDC; Cristina Diez, ATD Fourth World; Johan Taganova, SOS Children's Village; Sofia Garcia, SOS Children's Village; Richard Jordan, Royal Academy of Science Int'l Trust; Susan O'Malley, IFBPW
WebEx: Stefano Prato, SID; Eleanor Blomstrom, WEDO

Second Committee Briefing

Lotta Tahtinen introduced UN DESA colleagues who give a briefing on the Second Committee agenda and methods of work. We bid farewell and thanked Natalie LaVan for her service.

Irena Zubcevic, Senior SD Officer, UN DESA/DSD

- Briefing on 2nd Committee, the Economic and Financial Committee.
- His Excellency Mr. Andrej Logar of Slovenia, 2nd Comm Chair, has identified as one of his priorities the working methods of the 2nd Comm, in view of the implementation of the SDGs.
- The SD Agenda is one of 14 agenda items in the 2nd Comm. It has a – h sub items. It is expected that the Committee will adopt resolutions under each item and sub-item , including on the follow-up to and implementation of Agenda 21 which is an overarching

resolution that gave political direction to the CSD and more recently to Rio+20, post-2015 agenda, SDGs and HLPF.

- The other sustainable development agenda sub-items are mostly environmental, although some concentrated on the other 3 dimensions. These include follow-up to the Samoa SIDS conference, 3 Rio Conventions, Harmony with Nature, Education for Sustainable Dev (biennial), mountains (triennial), sustainable tourism (2 reports).
- The Addis Outcome Addis and FFD Forum will be considered under the item on FFD follow up. At this stage it is not clear what the resolution on FFD will address.
- Working Methods will be considered on Friday, 9 October.
- All main committee plenary sessions are open to NGOs and webcast. Informals are open to NGOs only with the consent of the chair/facilitator. Follow the UN Journal for the daily schedule of both plenary meetings and informals.

Lotta Tahtinen, DESA/DSD Stakeholder Engagement Programme Coordinator

- The 2nd Committee will have a debate on the items related to sustainable development and the related SG reports on 19-20 October, CR 2. It is expected that the G77 (with a few exceptions) will then submit draft resolutions under these items by the deadline of 22 October. Once the draft resolutions have been tabled, the facilitators for these drafts will convene informal consultations to have them all finalized and adopted by Thanksgiving. The 2nd Comm will report to the GA General Plenary on 22-23 December where the 2nd Comm resolutions are adopted again in plenary.
- 2nd Comm side events may be found here:
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/70/sideevents.shtml>
- The SG Report on Agenda 21 was submitted in early August Report just before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.
- In addition, para 90 of the 2030 Agenda requests the SG to produce a report on review and monitoring “to be considered during the 70th session” – which will go on until Sept 2016. So it is most likely that once this report has been released the General Assembly plenary will conduct some consultations during the spring.. So it remains to be seen how much 2nd Comm will discuss the agenda of the HLPF meeting now or later next year.
- The 2nd Comm Agenda 21 resolution will offer more strategic political guidance that will go beyond 2016 while the future SG report mandated by Para 90 will be discussed at the HLPF meeting in July 2016.
- Both the PGA and President ECOSOC very keen to include civil society in consultations.

Alberto Padova, Officer in Charge, DESA NGO Branch

- Res 68/1 and Res 69/321 both mandate ECOSOC and GA (2nd/3rd) to look at their agendas and working methods, to rationalize them and eliminate overlaps and duplication.

- The Chair of 2nd Comm has proposed to have a consultation on the methods of work first with Member States on 9 October and then with ECOSOC NGOs on 22 October that will include Member State interventions.
- While the secretariat would have preferred to have more time to prepare for the NGO consultation, it is important to have inputs from NGOs before the negotiations on draft resolutions begin in November. To prepare a one concept note will be circulated today along with a call for NGO speakers, followed by a discussion paper on key issues to be put on the table by Member States at their consultation on 9 October. A summary of the NGO consultation will be prepared.
- DESA NGO Branch will also accept written contributions via its web site in advance of 22 October.

Discussion

- Every resolution has to go through budgetary vetting – most 2nd Comm resolutions do not have Programme Budget Implications (PBIs). However there is a PBI for the 2030 Agenda currently being considered by the ACABQ and Fifth Committee.
- The list of 2nd Comm Bureau Members:
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/70/bureau.shtml>

From Chair's speech (thanks to Irena Zubcevic)

With respect to the division of responsibilities within the Bureau, I would like to inform the Committee that:

» *The general debate and the dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, as well as agenda item 120 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, item 134 on programme planning, and the side events, including the joint meetings of the Second Committee with the Economic and Social Council, will be under my responsibility.*

» *The Vice-Chair, Mr. Enrique Carillo Gomez, will be responsible for agenda item 17 on information and communications technologies for development; item 22 on globalization and interdependence; and item 25 on operational activities for development.*

» *The Vice-Chair, Mr. Purnomo Ahmad Chandra, will be responsible for agenda item 18 on macroeconomic policy questions; item 19 on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development; and item 26 on agriculture development, food security and nutrition.*

» *The Vice-Chair, Mr. Reinhard Krapp, will be responsible for agenda item 20 on sustainable development and item 27, "Towards global partnerships".*

» *The Rapporteur, Ms. Chantal Uwezira, will be responsible for agenda item 21 on UN-Habitat; item 23 on groups of countries in special situations; item 24 on eradication of poverty and other development issues; and item 65 on the permanent sovereignty of the*

Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

Advocacy Working Group Meeting

Action Items:

- Agreed to meet every Wednesday, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, while GA draft resolutions are being negotiated through the end of the year.
- Send letter to Third Committee Chair requesting that she call a meeting with NGOs like the Second Committee.
- Push a paragraph on participation of NGOs, receive permanent speaking slot at ECOSOC and Second Committee. (Orsolya Bartha)
- Have NGO joint statements to ECOSOC and GA Committees

Agreed that we should identify focal points for each draft resolution (please sign up):

(this is a partial list of 2nd resolutions, see full list on page 2:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/70/calendar.pdf>)

19. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (resolution 69/208) **Stefano Prato**

20. Sustainable development (resolutions 65/148, 67/200, 68/207, 68/209 and 69/211 to 69/213):

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (resolution 69/214); **Jeffery Huffines**

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (resolutions 67/206, 69/217 and 69/288);

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (resolutions 69/219, 69/283 and 69/284);

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (resolution 69/220);

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (resolution 69/221);

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (resolution 69/222);

(g) Harmony with Nature (resolution 69/224);

(h) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (resolution 65/163).

21. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (resolution 69/226). **Maruxa Cardama**

IISD Summary of Second Committee Opening Session:

http://sd.iisd.org/news/second-committee-begins-session-with-focus-on-2030-implementation
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NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 14 October, S-26MM2 (WebEx provided)