SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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• Paradigm shift
• A watershed event for international environmental dialogue
• High level political representation (100 delegations led by the Head of States).
• Wide-ranging NGO participation
• Extensive media coverage
• Accelerating the movement of environmental issues
Significant outcomes of UNCED

- Agenda 21
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Declaration of Forest Principles
Outstanding personalities:

UNCED Conference President: Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil.

Conference Secretary: Maurice F. Strong

UNSG Bhoutros Bhoutros Ghali

Gro Harlem Brundtland, The Chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission).
The Brundtland Commission’s vision

• Sustainable development as that which “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

• Put intergenerational justice and equity to the center.

• Interlinkages between development, social and environmental systems.
The earth’s physical systems have inherent limitations. While innovation constantly redefines humankind’s relationship with nature, certain environmental limitations are not possible to circumvent or overcome. Once key environmental thresholds have been crossed, it is not always possible to negate the resulting effects.
There is a need for development and improvements in quality of life, particularly for the world’s poor.

There is a need to pursue development in ways that use resources judiciously and protect key environmental systems.

There is a need to consider the implication that current activities will have for future generations.
Specific focus, among others:

- Implementation was estimated at US$ 600 billion for the developing countries alone.
- The external aid component was US$ 125 billion.
- The developing countries regained a high-profile place on the international agenda for development assistance and technology transfer.
The Earth Summit was the largest international conference ever held and the first major international conference of the post-Cold War era.

C. Anthony Giffard (1996)
A New Global context in 1990s:

• The demise of Soviet Union.
• Highlighting the concept of Peace Devident.
• Transformation from global conflict to cooperation.
• The Integration of the Eastern European economies into a global economic system.
• Uncertainty: Pax Americana or Strengthen Multilateralism
Current global threats after 20 years:

- The world now has 7 billion people.
- One out of every five people lives on $1.25 a day or less.
- Almost 1 billion people go hungry every day.
- 2.5 billion do not have a toilet.
- 1/3 of all known species could go extinct.
- A billion and a half people in the word do not have access to electricity.
Global programs and actions to achieve drinking water, improved health and reduced mortality, food security and reduced hunger, and environment sustainability fell very short toward their targets.

Daniel Mudiyarso of CIFOR (2010)
Facing the global challenges:

- The need for global Cooperation has never been greater.
- How to minimize the loss rate or mitigate environmental degradation?
The world is coming up against capacity barriers

We are near or at peak of oil production

The Global Problems

World demand for primary commodities is pushing up against limits of supply

Food production is becoming less secure with climate change
Both science and economics tells us our current path is unsustainable. Ecosystems are under stress. Economies are faltering. The human appetite for resources keeps growing. We need to chart a new, more sustainable course for the future, one that strengthens equality and economic growth while protecting our planet.

Ban Ki-Moon
Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.

Mahatma Gandhi
The Future We Want:

• Making transition to greener economies while focusing on poverty eradication.
• Protecting our oceans from overfishing, the destruction of marine ecosystems and adverse effects of climate change.
• Making our cities more liveable and more efficient.
• Broadening the use of renewable energy sources that can significantly lower carbon emissions as well as indoor and outdoor pollution, while promoting economic growth.
The Current Global context:

• Shifts in global power: from bipolar to multipolar
• The financial crisis in Euro Zone
• Rising of prices: food, energy and medicines.
• ICT revolution and jobless growth
• Demand for democracy, participation and state protection of its citizens.
• Presidential elections and change of government
• Natural disaster because of climate change
RIO + 20, June 20-22, main agenda:

Green Economy

Institutional Framework Sustainable Development.
Green Economy:

- Incorporating social and environmental costs in regulating and pricing of goods and services, as well as addressing market failures.
- Creating an incentive roadmap that increasingly values long-term.
- Increasing finance for sustainable development, including public and private funding and partnership to mobilize large volumes of new financing.
- Expanding how we measure progress in sustainable development by creating a sustainable development index or set of indicators.
Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

- Improving coherence at the subnational, national and international levels.
- Creating a set of sustainable development goals.
- Establishing a periodic global sustainable development outlook report that brings together information and assessments currently dispersed across institutions and analysis them in an integrated way.
In short:

Making a new commitment to revitalize and reform the international institutional framework, including considering the creation of a global sustainable development council.
Developing countries’ concerns:

Lack of clarity and common understanding of the term “green economy” risks the substitution framework of sustainable development adopted at UNCED and a marginalization of the social and economic dimensions.
Indonesia’s strong position

- The largest archipelagic country in the world.
- The 4th largest country in terms of population.
- Member of G-20 because of its GDP
- The largest Moslem community in the world
- The 2nd largest country in terms of its biodiversity.
SDG should include:

- Poverty alleviation
- Changing lifestyle and consumption patterns
- Sustainable Human Settlement Development
- Biodiversity and Forests
- Oceans
- Water resources
- Food security
- Energy, including from renewable sources
- Health
- Population
- Land degradation
Policy options:

• Defining goals as well as indicators.
• These should reflect interlinkages between economic development, environment and social condition.
• How will it converge with the revision of the MDGs --→ post-2015 target?
• Therefore: a coherent, harmonious, solid and effective set of goals is badly needed.
UNCSD outcomes:

• Political will of the leaders to advance the SDG
• Provide mandate to continue the works to define goals, indicators etc.
• Build on the achievement of Johannesburg Conference in 2002 on a Plan of Implementation as well as on the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building.
• Avoid hesitation to talk on the inconclusive deliberation because of the slow process of negotiation.
Getting action in the United Nations is like the mating of elephants. It take place at a very high level; with an enormous amount of huffing and puffing, raises tremendous amount of dust and nothing happens for at least 23 months.”

*Pamela S. Chasek*
Thank You For Your Attention