CREATING, IMPLEMENTING AND MEASURING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SERVE, LEARN, SUSTAIN - GEORGIA TECH
THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2017
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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

• The context: 2011
• A call to action
• A new kind of multilateral agreement
• The realities of global negotiations
• What are the SDGs? A quick primer
• Implementing this ambitious agenda
• Progress and setbacks
• Monitoring and data collection
A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS
MORE FREQUENT NATURAL DISASTERS

A rising tide
Natural disasters by cause

- Meteorological: Storms
- Hydrological: Floods, landslides and avalanches
- Climatological: Extreme temperatures, droughts, forest fires

Source: Munich Re
GROWING
SOCIO-
ECONOMIC
INEQUALITY
GLOBAL RATES OF INEQUALITY: THE GINI COEFFICIENT

A CALL TO ACTION
A NEW KIND OF MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT

- To set the world on a new trajectory
- Overcome the setbacks of other processes like Copenhagen 2009 and Rio 1992
- Be truly universal
- Aligning the environment and development movements
- With attention to equity
DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM THE MDGS

• Building off the success of the Millennium Development Goals
  
  • Poverty reduction ($1.25) from 1.9bn in 1990 to 836 million in 2015
  
  • UPE: 83% in 2000 to 91% in 2015
  
  • U5M: Reduced by half from 0 to 43 deaths per 1000 live births
  
  • 2 billion more people could access drinking water in 2010, as opposed to 1990
  
  • A non-binding agreement
THE NEGOTIATIONS

- **High Level Panel** on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, established 2012
- **Open Working Group** on Sustainable Development, established January 2013
MY WORLD RESULTS

9,736,484 votes for All Countries & Country Groups / All Genders / All Education Levels / Age Group (All Age Groups)

- A good education: 6,528,295
- Better healthcare: 5,524,342
- Better job opportunities: 5,428,588
- An honest and responsive government: 4,422,173
- Affordable and nutritious food: 3,987,435
- Protection against crime and violence: 3,678,573
- Access to clean water and sanitation: 3,582,181
- Support for people who can't work: 3,273,182
- Better transport and roads: 3,185,197
- Equality between men and women: 2,924,325
- Reliable energy at home: 2,899,844
- Political freedoms: 2,787,942
- Freedom from discrimination and persecution: 2,694,153
- Protecting forests, rivers and oceans: 2,504,331
- Phone and internet access: 2,457,634
- Action taken on climate change: 1,981,549

http://data.myworld2015.org/
THE REALITY OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS

Let the HORSE Trading begin...
MOST INSPIRING THING ABOUT THE SDGs

- Their independence
- Their complexity
- Their universalism
- The public engagement and mobilization
- Leave No One Behind
- Place-based approach
- Paved the way for Paris
GOOD WORK, BUT I THINK WE NEED JUST A LITTLE MORE DETAIL RIGHT HERE!
FIVE KEY STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. Education and awareness raising
2. Planning
3. Financing
4. Monitoring and data collection
5. Follow-up and review
PROGRESS TO DATE?

• National Action:
  • 109 countries will have presented VNRs by July 2018
  • More than 44 countries have institutional mechanisms for SDG impl.

• Local Government action:
  • San Jose, CA
  • Baltimore, MD
  • New York, NY
  • Bogota, Colombia
  • Durban, SA

• Non-Governmental action e.g. Universities supporting SDG implementation
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION IN BALTIMORE
PLANNING TO MEET THE SDG 13 AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT IN NYC

New York City’s Roadmap to 80 x 50

2014 New York City Energy Consumption and GHG Emissions

Source Energy 1,084 trillion BTU
- Natural Gas 633 trillion BTU
- Nuclear 168 trillion BTU
- Renewables 2.62 trillion BTU
- Coal 0.15 trillion BTU
- Petroleum 280 trillion BTU

GHG Emissions 52.9 MtCO₂e
- Residential Buildings 16.9 MtCO₂e
- Commercial Buildings 10.3 MtCO₂e
- Industrial & Institutional Buildings 8.7 MtCO₂e
- Public Transit 1.1 MtCO₂e
- On-Road Transportation 13.9 MtCO₂e
- Landfill, Wastewater Treatment, etc. 1.9 MtCO₂e
THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES

Figure 1: The case for university engagement in the SDGs

How do the SDGs help universities?
- Create increased demand for SDG-related education
- Provide a comprehensive and globally accepted definition of a responsible university
- Offer a framework for demonstrating impact
- Create new funding streams
- Support collaboration with new external and internal partners

Knowledge
Learning
Demonstration
Impact
Collaboration

How do universities help the SDGs?
- Provide knowledge, innovations, and solutions to the SDGs
- Create current and future SDG implementers
- Demonstrate how to support, adopt, and implement SDGs in governance, operations, and culture
- Develop cross-sectoral leadership to guide the SDG response
EMERGING CHALLENGES....

• Maintaining political commitment and interest
• Changing legal, regulatory and normative frameworks (particularly to empower cities to act)
• Financing
• Monitoring progress and building data systems to support implementation
SO HOW DO WE MONITOR THE SDGS?

- 231 indicators adopted by UN General Assembly
- Developed by Interagency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG)
- **Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators** (82 Tier I indicators, 61 Tier II indicators and 84 Tier III indicators)
- e.g. there are 53 gender-related indicators in the SDGs but only 20 are ready to measure (ODW 2017).
• Official statistics, produced by governments alone, is not enough.
• Need more frequent data, at higher resolution
• Need:
  • Geospatial data
  • Data from citizens
  • Data from private companies
HARNESSING THE DATA REVOLUTION (2)
COUNTING ON THE WORLD
Building Modern Data Systems for Sustainable Development
KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **CREATION**: A unique, collaborative, inspiring process.

2. **IMPLEMENTATION**: Not just about government. Citizens, private companies, universities all have a vital role to play.

3. **MONITORING**: To monitor such a huge and complex agenda we need to innovate and harness the data revolution.
THANK YOU

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