



*Introductory Lectures for Youth Engagement*

*2030 Development Agenda  
and Sustainable Development Goals  
(Foundational Level)*




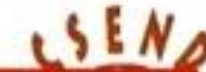
# Speakers



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- **Jan-Gustav** began working with the UN on environment and governance in the 1970s, and has taught about the UN for more than five decades, worked with the UN Commission for Sustainable Development for 15 years, as NGO liaison officer at the UN HQ, as a diplomat for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, at embassies in Botswana and Uganda, was for 15 years director of an aid/environment-NGO with projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, has worked 6 years in Africa, has extensive stakeholder experience through 50 years of work on all continents, speaks several languages, is a seasoned university lecturer, guest-lectured all over the world on UN issues; evaluated projects and organisations advised governments, chaired and facilitated UN meetings, translated and authored books, numerous articles on governance, the environment, and sustainable development.

**Stakeholder Forum** is a not-for-profit international organisation working to advance sustainable development, the environment and good governance at all levels. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory decision-making on issues related to the UN system in general and to sustainable development and environment in particular. We work through enhancing the involvement of all stakeholders in multilateral contexts. We focus particularly on the effective engagement of stakeholders with international policy processes.



Introductory Course

2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals  
(SDGs 1-2-3)

**Stakeholder Approach & Partnerships for SDG-  
Implementation**

**Jan-Gustav Strandenaes**

Senior Adviser, Stakeholder Forum, London UK, and  
Utrecht, the Netherlands, New York, US and, Oslo, Norway



## Question 1:

**Who are the stakeholders in the context of the 2030 Agenda?**

**Why is it important to emphasise the role of non-state actors?**



- In 2019 at the Sustainable Development Summit, UN member states decided to call 2020-2030 a Decade of Action and mandated the SG of the UN Antonio Guterres to act accordingly



- Implementing the 2030 Agenda is about integrating all SDGs in all plans at all levels.

- All implementation must be based on principles of universality, on being planet and human sensitive, create transformative change and on partnerships between civil society, the authorities and the private sector.

- Involving civil society and non-state actors provides contact with grass roots, thus identifying emerging issues, can exchange and set the agenda and bring legitimacy and key levels of governance to decision making processes



## Is there a typology for civil society? – between market, state and society

- Volunteerism, charity, sports, music whose interests are neoliberal,
- Activist and advocacy organisations
- Professional NGOs exist somewhere between advocacy and research/think tanks
- Postmodern, and fundamentalistic in politics and religion
- Humanistic. With a focus on rights-based approaches  
(inspired by Mary Kaldor)

NGO  
GONGO  
NGI  
MONGO  
Qualify –  
ECOSOC  
1996/31



## What are NGOs – non state stakeholders

- Civil society rest on humanistic values, - rediscovered during the Renaissance, the enlightenment
- The organised part of civil society is a product of modernity
- It is an integrated part of the social contract
- It exists within ideas from the modernity, has a civil ethos, moral values and integrity
- Implicitly expected to advance good and sound values such as justice, equality, equity, rights-based approaches, a value based social policy – «fighting for the well-being of humanity»
- Frederic Powell, Cork University, Ireland





## Article 71 from the UN Charter – Agenda 21



NGO is a legal entity, formal recognition

Stakeholder is a person or organisation with a stake in something

Stakeholder is context dependent, can be government, can be civil society

Stakeholder has no legal or formal position

Civil society suffers from the same as stakeholder, BUT:

All civil society organisations are NGOs (at the UN) but not all NGOs are of civil society

What are Major Groups?

### The 9 Major Groups

Women

Children/Youth

Farmers

NGOs

Indigenous Peoples

Trade Unions

Local Authorities

Science/Technology

Business/Industry



## Question 2:

How much progress have we made in *stakeholder participation* since the launching of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015?



# Stakeholder positions to the 2030 Agenda



	<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>REGIONAL</b>	<b>GLOBAL</b>
<b>INFLUENCE</b>				
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	High	High	High	High
<b>BUSINESS</b>	High	High	High	High
<b>Civil Society And NGOs</b>	High	High/ Lessening	Less	Little (?) (context dependent)
<b>INTEREST</b>				
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	High to inconsistent	High to inconsistent	Inconsistent to High	Varies to High
<b>BUSINESS</b>	Less	High	Growing	Growing
<b>Civil society And NGOs</b>	Varies to High	Varies to High	Less (Context dependent)	Even less (Context dependent)



# Stakeholder positions to the 2030 Agenda –



	LOCAL	NATIONAL	REGIONAL	GLOBAL
<b>ABILITY to implement</b>				
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	High	High	High	High
<b>BUSINESS</b>	High	High	High	High
<b>Civil Society And NGOs</b>	High /Varies	High /Varies	Less	Even less
<b>PREPAREDNESS</b>				
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	Few	Varies to High	More	Varies
<b>BUSINESS</b>	Few	Growing	Growing	A few
<b>Civil Society and NGOs</b>	Growing	Growing	Few	Not really



## Progress – conceptual or practical?



**Change/progress:**

**“Sustainable Development has by 2018/2019 finally reached political legitimacy”**

**(the UN World Public Services Reports, 2018&19)**

➤ But there is still a tendency to develop strategies along traditional development thinking, - which leads to one of two things:

1 - Efforts are made to adapt development thinking to sustainable development, and tick the boxes for sustainability categories

2 - Or develop two strategies, one based on traditional development thinking and one on sustainability - the SDGs.

➤ In both cases sustainable development is given lower priority



## Question 3:

**Why are partnerships between authorities and non-state actors important**



## Governance challenges in the context of implementation



- Unless governments own intergovernmental processes, policies will never be taken seriously
- Unless people feel ownership with development, little – if anything - will be implemented
- The 2030 agenda and the SDGs will have to be implemented at all levels – local, national, regional and global, in partnerships



Implementing SDGs, key elements must be considered in developing partnerships. Good governance must be 'inserted' everywhere. We find the following elements and principles for this in the 2030 Agenda:

- A “learning culture” in our approach to partnerships
- Promoting integrated (cross-sectoral or nexus) approaches
- Strong and effective leadership
- Process management – including conflict mediation, access
- An independent and well staffed secretariat
- Adequate funding and resource management
- Good capacity-building for partners, efficiency and continuity

- Principles,
- Guidelines
- Accountability, transparency and due diligence
- Quality participation
- Roles of intergovernmental bodies, the UN system, EU and others
- Monitoring and Mapping
- Reporting
- Reviews





**How can non-state stakeholders respond constructively and with relevance to the challenges posed by the complexity of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda and be actively involved in partnerships - - - -**

**- - - if all they care about is the generic role of being a watch-dog?**

**To what level is expert knowledge needed?**

**Will the need for technical solutions eventually override the value basis of the 2030 Agenda?**



SDG technicalities



- 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- 169 targets
- 232 indicators

They SDGs and targets are:

- integrated, interlinked and indivisible;
  - people-centred and planet-sensitive;
  - universal – applying to all countries while recognizing different realities and capabilities.
- And now only **8** years to finalise this!

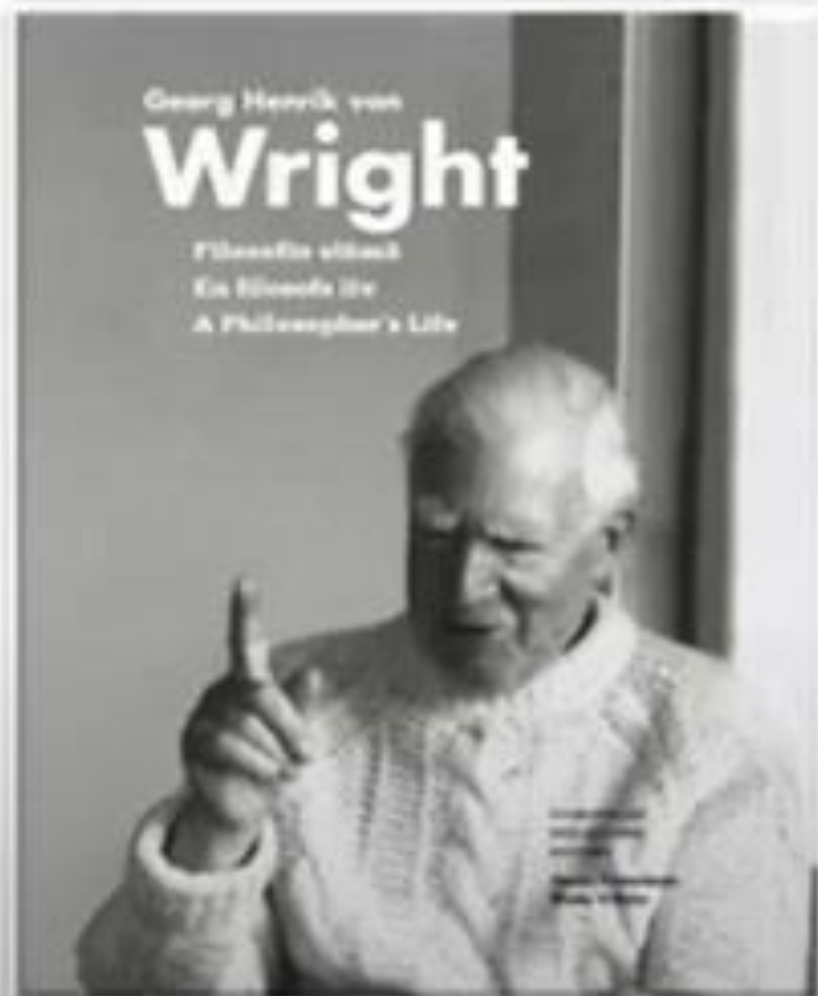




**A question of scale – a serious and often ignored governance question (Georg Henrik von Wright)**



- **Scaling up – everything becomes too large, details are lost**
- **Complexity and diversity difficult to see and understand**
- **Getting decisions at the right level is difficult**
- **Standardization can be problematic**
- **Mainstreaming can ruin**
- **Implementation can be muddled**
- **Collaboration becomes strained**
- **Governance suffers or is non-existent, and key values undermined (the 5 Ps, LNOB)**





## Governance, relevance and effective partnerships – do we really understand the challenges?

### DOES GOVERNANCE DIRECT REALITY?

- Monitoring development through indicators: (SDGs are point in case)
- Are the 230+ indicators relevant?
- Whose interests do they reflect?
  - The government/authorities?
  - Private sector?
  - The people?
- Who developed the indicators?
  - Governments?
  - Experts?
  - The people?

### UNDERSTANDING GOVERNANCE

- On which values are the indicators based?
- Collective goods?
- The collective interest of all society?
- Monetary values such as profitability and the market?
- Environmental and social concerns?
- A rights-based system?
- Do the governance systems today reflect the politics of our times, or should some governance principles be set in stone



## Question 4:

**Are there good examples in CSO/NGO involvement with the SDGs?**



## Why do we participate in Intergovernmental Processes?

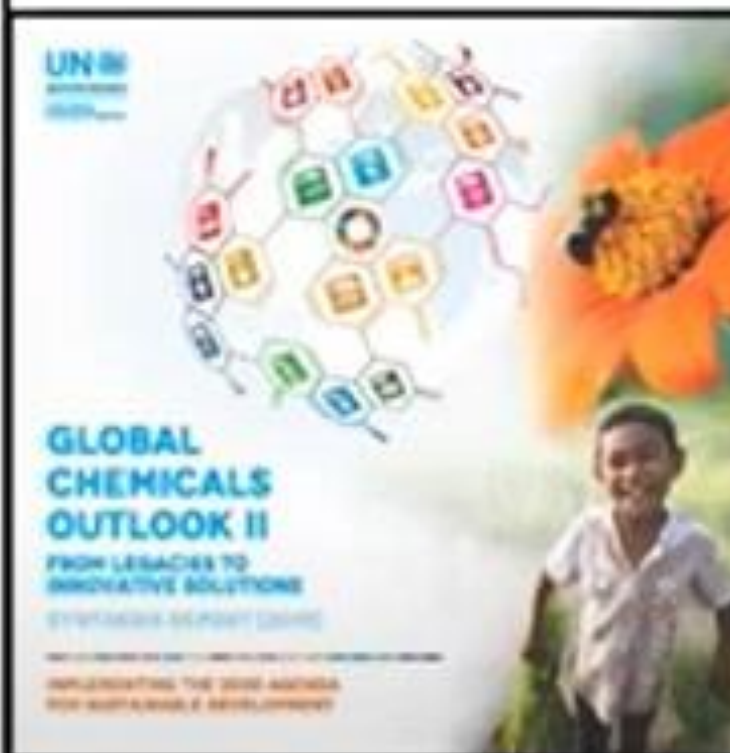
There are at least four important functions:

- Setting agendas
- Negotiating outcomes
- Conferring legitimacy
- Implementing solutions



## Negotiating Outcomes: Chemicals - Providing Content and Influencing

- By always being present, and always providing substantive and relevant input, the network of NGOs working on chemical issues, IPEN, helped create the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which is a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world, a part of UNEP.
- IPEN also helped develop the Minamata Convention on mercury.
- After providing substantive and relevant input in refugee matters and health, UNOCHA and UNAIDS now have representatives of NGOs at the highest level.
- Greenpeace provided substantive input on the ocean's chapter in the Rio+20 Outcome document.
- The Plastics resolution 2022 at UNEA 5





## Question 5:

**Where do you think young people can be active and what can they do to help the global community in safeguarding the rights for all to participate?**





Rights based approaches, justice, human rights,  
equity and equality  
Good governance, access, participation  
Intergenerational issues



- **Council of HR decision on the right to a clean environment**
- **Inclusion of civil society in all decision-making processes**
- **The right to self selection by civil society**

TRANSFORMATIVE

CHANGE



INTEGRATED  
INTERLINKED  
INDIVISIBLE

TRANSFORMATIVE  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL ECONOMIC  
ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSAL  
PEOPLE-CENTERED  
PLANET-SENSITIVE