

Stakeholder Approach

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Career/Experiment: Senior Adviser on Governance, Stakeholder Forum

Introduction of the speaker

- 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

- A not-for-profit international organisation working to advance sustainable development, the environment and good governance at all levels.
- 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.
- Work through enhancing the involvement of all stakeholders in multilateral contexts and focus particularly on the effective engagement of stakeholders with international policy processes.

Q1: Who are the stakeholders in the context of the 2030 Agenda?

Why is it important to emphasize 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 change and set the agenda and bring legitimacy and key levels of governance to decision making processes

Q1-1: Is there a typology for civil society? between market, state and society

- Volunteerism, charity, sports, music whose interests are neoliberal,
- Activist and advocacy organizations
- Professional NGOs exist somewhere between advocacy and research/think tanks
- Postmodern, and fundamentalist in politics and religion
 - Grassroots (emerging issues identified to make government decisions legitimate), non-state actors (academics... etc.)
- Humanistic. With a focus on rights-based approaches (inspired by Mary Kalder)
 - The humanistic basis of most of the Civil Society organizations with a very strong focus on rights-based approaches
- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1996-31, the correct definition of a non-governmental organization that pertains to the U.N
 - A government NGO are not really a Civil Society then we have the phenomenon of the NGI, where you have one person dealing with this for some reason. NGI stands for the non-governmental individual and related to that are the mongos (abbreviation of my own NGO) organizations that are not really that Democratic and participatory.
 - Gongo is also kind of the abbreviation of governments organized non-governmental organizations
 - NGO definition - a product of modernity, moral integrity, right-based

Q1-2: What are NGOs - non state stakeholders

- Civil society rest on humanistic values, - rediscovered during the Renaissance, the enlightenment
- The organized 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»

Q1-3: 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 organizations are NGOS (at the UN) but not all NGOs are Civil Society**
- What are Major Groups?
 - ◆ Back in 1992 at the first three year conference to make the issue of the NGO a bit more explicit and perhaps easier to understand, they grouped different constituency into the nine major groups
 1. Women
 2. Children/Youth
 3. Farmers
 4. NGOS
 5. Indigenous Peoples
 6. Trade Unions
 7. Local Authorities
 8. Science/Technology
 9. Business/Industry

Q2: 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 (government, business, civil society & NGOs)
 - Government has reached the grassroots with inconsistency
 - Priority of the State on sustainability not ensured
- 1. Influence

	Local	National	Regional	Global
Government	High	High	High	High
Business	High	High	High	High
Civil Society and NGOs	High	High/ Lessening	Less	Little (7) (context dependent)

2. Interest

	Local	National	Regional	Global
Government	High to inconsistent	High to inconsistent	Inconsistent to High	Varies to High
Business	Less	High	Growing	Growing
Civil Society and NGOs	Varies to High	Varies to High	Less (Context dependent)	Even less (Context dependent)

3. Ability to implement

	Local	National	Regional	Global
Government	High	High	High	High
Business	High	High	High	High
Civil Society and NGOs	High / Varies	High / Varies	Less	Even less

4. Preparedness

	Local	National	Regional	Global
Government	Few	Varies to High	More	Varies
Business	Few	Growing	Growing	A few
Civil Society and NGOs	Growing	Growing	Few	Not really

- Progress-conceptual or practical?
 - ◆ Change/progress: (the UN World Public Services Reports, 2018&19)
 - ◆ "Sustainable Development has by 2018/2019 finally reached political legitimacy"
 - ◆ But there is still a tendency to develop strategies along traditional development thinking, which leads to one of two things:
 - ◆ Efforts are made to adapt development thinking to sustainable development, and tick the boxes for sustainability categories
 - ◆ 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

Q3: 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.
 - Elements
 - ◆ 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
 - We need...
 - ◆ Principles
 - ◆ Guidelines
 - ◆ Accountability, transparency and due diligence
 - ◆ Quality participation
 - ◆ Roles of intergovernmental bodies, the UN system, EU and others
 - ◆ Monitoring and Mapping
 - ◆ Reporting
 - ◆ Reviews
- Mainstreaming everything: leave no one behind
- Relevance of governance (governments, experts, people)

Q3-1: 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?
 - Civil Society and NGOs in Partnerships are faced with their revolution which they are not fully embraced they need, to understand the complex itself, not business will take over.
- ... To what level is expert knowledge needed?
 - Look at the 17 STDs the 169 targets you need to understand the basics
- Will the need for technical solutions eventually override the value basis of the 2030 Agenda?

- NGOs got the expertise. they have the money, they have the blessing from authorities and then they will go ahead without integrating Civil Society that's why we need to really work hard and in smart with developing the implementation in Partnerships because Civil Society brings with the value basis of the 2030 agenda.
- Civil Society can be actively challenging business and authorities to remember:
 - 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.
 - 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? (leave the questions for the audience to discuss later)
 - 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?
 - 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

Q4: Are there good examples in CSO/NGO involvement with the SDGs?

- Why do we participate in Intergovernmental Processes? Functions below:
 - Setting agendas
 - Negotiating outcomes
 - Conferring legitimacy
 - Implementing
 - Solutions
- Good example in 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

Q5: 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?

- Combine expert knowledge + intergovernmental process = civil society coming into negotiation
- 2030 agenda, it's transformative action and young people with commitment are good at rights based approaches, justice, human rights, equity and equality Good governance, access, participation intergenerational issues.
- Chances
 - 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
- Pick something where your passionate is at + knowledge -) interdisciplinary work (academics + practitioners + NGOs +inter-generational)

TRANSFORMATIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- ⚙ INTEGRATED INTERLINKED INDIVISIBLE
- ⚙ SOCIAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT
- ⚙ UNIVERSAL PEOPLE-CENTERED PLANET-SENSITIVE