



Global Civil Society Dialogue
Ending Hunger:
Making Sustainable
Development Goal 2 Work
Kathmandu, Nepal
1- 3 June 2016

Findings and Conclusions

On 1 January 2016, the 17 *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* officially came into force. The United Nations resolved to end all forms of hunger by 2030.

The battle towards achieving zero hunger must be principally fought in rural areas where almost 793 million of the world's hungry and poor live. There is a need for strong political will and the role of the civil society is essential to advocate and campaign for targeted strategies and to monitor progress, as well as to innovate and promote alternative solutions.

Over 150 participants from 19 different countries across Asia, Europe, Africa and South America gathered in Kathmandu to discuss the role of civil society in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2. The Global Civil Society Dialogue gave all participants an ideal space to get familiarized with the details of the 2030 Agenda and to identify the roles of civil society and avenues for action for the implementation of the SDGs with a special focus on nutrition and food security.

Partners



SDGs in the Global Context

The opening was celebrated by His Excellency Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President of Nepal. He pointed out that sustainable development and sustained peace cannot go along with poverty, hunger and inequality. Attaining sustainable development and peace will be possible only after we end poverty and hunger. The ceremony was accompanied by dances performed by SAMVAD. Mr. Bijaya Kunwar (National Planning Commission Nepal - NPC) pointed out, the importance of bringing together individuals from the civil society, government and the private sector to create sound partnerships, to share and learn and develop adequate policies. According to Mathias Mogge (Welthungerhilfe), each country has to be seen as a developing country contributing to achieving the SDGs. While the SDGs are encompassing the three pillars of sustainability, the political dimension has not been adequately addressed, says Amitabh Behar (National Foundation for India). He appealed to the civil society to be more united and to refrain from competition. Now that the SDG Agenda is set, said Dr. Bimala Rai Paudyal (Former member of NPC Nepal), the next key step is to adapt and apply these goals and targets at the national level immediately without wasting time. It will be necessary to bring about a mind-set change to attain the goals. In the plenary, the issues of governance and corruption were discussed as main barriers to sustainable development. Transformative development requests to look at the context, to connect to formal power structures and to bring them to serve justice and dignity.



Opening ceremony

„The SDG commitment of leaving no one behind is highly encouraging for all of us “

(His Excellency Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President of Nepal)

Making the Integrated and Indivisible SDGs Work for Food and Nutrition Security

In her introduction, Dr. Ariane Götz (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies) said that the Zero Hunger Goal is holistic, but has some deficiencies. Targets regarding the urban side of malnutrition and food insecurity are not addressed. Instead of fair trade the SDGs only refer to free trade. Recognizing interdependencies and trade-offs within and across goals, CSO's may refer to the right to food to overcome such inconsistencies.

In three workshops the participants discussed about the opportunities and challenges related to the SDGs and formulated priorities and key demands:

Nutrition, Health and WASH

The SDGs bear the opportunity for civil society to engage in the formulation of nutrition sensitive policies and plans and to translate them into action. Sound policies have to take in account that SDG targets may provoke trade-offs, e.g. production vs. ecosystems. The promotion of a multi-sector engagement with focus on nutrition will be crucial. More investment as well as regional networking and cross-learning are major driving factors to succeed. Northern Governments and international corporates should not influence food sovereignty in the South.

Agriculture and Employment

There is a disproportionate growth in the service sector that is

creating a new wave of joblessness for a vast majority of unskilled youth. This, coupled with the deepening agrarian crisis across Asia, needs an innovative response: One that creates jobs within the agriculture sector, that is centered around better terms of trade and sustainability. Agricultural development has to factor questions of crop diversity and the equitable distribution of land and water. Due to increasing outmigration of men, access and control over land and other natural resources by women is critical. There is a need to create urban jobs in the primary and secondary sectors to absorb hundreds of millions of rural migrants. Job creation needs to happen in the formal sector with social protection measures for all labor - including the agricultural sector.

Social Protection and Inclusion

Social protection is a fundamental part of the SDGs and at the same time decisive for the fulfillment of the Right to Food. In countries with social security systems: (i) civil society should advocate to maintain social security systems and (ii) for transparent and accountable systems. In countries with insufficient social security systems we should advocate for legal enforcement of social security systems. Civil society should engage in the formulation and implementation of minimum standards to guarantee social security and inclusion.

Roles and Avenues for Civil Society

Stefano Prato (Society for International Development) challenged to move beyond the mainstream agenda and called for civil society to strategically use the SDGs to advance much more radical transformations, hence breaking the politics of cooption, cheerleading and silencing of dissent. He invited civil society to reaffirm the centrality and indivisibility of human rights, to contrast the corporate capture of public policy spaces and scale-up the demand for equity and justice. He also reaffirmed the need to uphold the struggle for food sovereignty and to view the advancement of agroecology as a powerful political project. Lastly, he invited to reclaim healthy, diversified, sustainable diets as public good and policy space.

Lidy Nacpil (Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development) pointed out that hunger is not due to a lack of resources but to an imbalance of power. Governments and States are used by powerful elites and corporates. We need to change public opinion and to build strong civil society movements to compel immediate as well as long term system change that encompasses political, economic and socio-cultural issues.



Plenary dialogue

Poster and Innovations Bazaar Sessions

Participants from 9 countries presented 23 posters. The audience discussed and gave recommendations to topics ranging from village development, national governance to global advocacy. The setting allowed a comprehensive sharing of experiences, learnings and approaches. Key aspects were the importance of context, the replicability and the promotion of networking. We also discussed specific issues like the empowerment of fathers in child caring and inter-generational equity.

The “Innovations Bazaar” was a place to share new ideas ranging from nutrition-sensitive micro-credits, civil-society empowerment, social business to public relations approaches. By sharing videos, tools, presentations and materials all participants were deeply moved by the multitude ideas to break new ground for more impact in fighting hunger.

„I believe that these mega-goals will be achieved when the whole community stays together“

(Dr. Sarba Raj Khadka, Rural Reconstruction Nepal)

Conclusions from the World Cafes

Advocacy Agenda for SDG 2 and related SDGs

- Civil society has to elaborate a common vision which goes beyond the SDGs and which challenges the existing paradigm
- A common agenda is shared by an inclusive group which is far larger than ‘just’ the development community

Advocacy and Watchdog Functions

- All governments need to develop indicators at sub-national and national level through meaningful engagement with civil society
- Civil society needs to monitor the implementation of SDGs at sub-national and national level as a strong and diverse coalition comprising ‘watchdogs, barking dogs and bulldogs’ while carrying out the programs and projects to realize the SDGs

Empowerment and Capacity Building

- Civil Society has to facilitate, promote and monitor SDG processes at all levels, in all relevant sectors and place special emphasis on youth: People at the forefront: Power to the masses!
- Civil Society: Get organized! Take-up responsibility! Be accountable!

Means of Implementation

- More budget allocation towards the SDGs and more development assistance directly channeled to civil society
- More domestic resource mobilization strategies and implementation of international taxation on multinational cooperates and financial transactions

Global Cooperation

- CSOs should be active at regional and global levels in agenda building processes, promote the alignment of domestic policies towards SDGs and at the same time have a strong watchdog function
- CSOs have to play an effective role by promoting south-south and south-north cooperation, building synergies, involving in extraterritorial responsibilities

Zero Hunger — Slogans, Communication, Action

- To communicate Zero Hunger by 2030 to the public through existing networks and contacts by addressing people in a language specific to their contexts
- We need to relate especially to young people in practical ways to mobilize them. Keep the message simple and the activity creative

Concluding Sessions

The concluding sessions were opened by speeches from Matthias Meyer (Ambassador German Embassy Kathmandu), Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada (Vice Chairperson, National Planning Commission Nepal) and Pippa Bradford (Country Director, WFP Nepal).

Conclusions

The universality of the SDGs makes them historic in scope, but they are not as transformative as we expected - still they are a great opportunity to fight hunger and poverty in an inclusive way which is already framed by the human rights. The contribution of civil society to make the SDGs a success is likewise manifold and challenging: we have to bridge the gap between elite societies and the grassroots levels through a common "people's agenda", with clear focus on the Right to Food and related aspects. The SDGs need to be translated into slogans which are understood by all people. We as civil society need to break up silos, interconnect and form rainbow-coalitions in order to mobilize people and develop a critical mass to make our voices heard. In future we should be more critical and radical and reach out to other groups - ranging from environmentalists to cooperates and economists - they should all be aware that they are contributors to sustainable development, dignity and justice. To do so, we need a thorough understanding of the context and analyze the various actors and their related agendas. At the same time we need to be clear of what we want and what we don't want and bring up a set of negotiables. These should encompass and

„We must use the potential of the experiences which are in the room and bring them collectively to a higher level“

(Mathias Mogge, Welthungerhilfe)

promote the interconnectedness of food sovereignty, food rights, access to nutritious food, land reforms and put the idea of redistributive justice in the center of all kind of development strategies.

We have to reflect upon our own capacities, benefit from cross-learnings and spend more time in strategic discussions and think beyond this conference – we will engage in discussions at national level on how to move forward more precisely to come up with plans for effective actions. Participating organizations shall take up the facilitation of national civil society dialogues on SDG2, while the organizers are committed to promote this actively. So far, CSO of the South are largely dependent on funding from the North. They will strive for more local fund mobilization to reach a higher level of independence. Northern CSOs will advocate for sound funding strategies that promote a strong and independent civil society. We are committed to leave the path of business as usual for a new inclusive civil society movement for justice, dignity and zero hunger. Together, we will develop far beyond SDG 2!



For detailed documentation please visit:

www.civilsocietyacademy.org/global-dialogue.html

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