SD Monitoring and Reviewing in non-European Countries: opportunities and challenges in the context of the SDGs

12th ESDN Workshop 2015
Monitoring and Reviewing SDGs in Europe: Current debates in EU Member States and on the European level

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Key Points

• M&Rv so far in non-European countries
• Challenges and needs for SD(Gs) M&Rv
• Opportunities for effective M&Rv
• Pending issues for discussion
1. M&Rv Experience So Far in non-European Countries
The MDG Experience

• Provided basis
  – Focused on and tracked international goals
  – National & int’l indicators, statistical capacity

• Lessons Learned
  – Pitfalls of top-down goals and targets
    • Varying transparency and participation
  – Focus on development, not sustainability
  – Not universal
The NVP Experience

• National Voluntary Presentations
  – 60+ countries on “IADG” progress (including SD) since 2005
  – National dialogues, up to 3 peer reviewers
  – Published on Development Strategies that Work website

• Lessons
  – Facilitates coordination between government authorities
  – Opportunities for dialogues, but needs coordination
  – Needs framework and CD for rigour and evidence-based

• Recommendations
  – Provide clear review process guidelines
  – Importance of coherent multi-layered reports
  – Match regional and sub-regional capacity
Why are M&Rv Important?

• As a political tool
  – Key to transparent, accountable SD policy
  – Opportunity of stakeholder engagement

• As a management tool
  – Adaptation to national context
  – Improves through learning and feedbacks

• As a sharing platform
  – For substantive SD changes
  – On the governance of those changes
Towards Post-2015

- D + S = Post-2015
  - Merging MDG and CSD tracks
- GA Resolution 67/290
  - HLPF beyond MoEs, also build on NVPs
  - HLPF to conduct reviews from 2016
- SDG definition timeline
  - Negotiating goals, targets, indicators
  - Approve goals in September 2015
  - UNSC adopts Ind. Framework in 03/2016
2. Challenges and Needs of SD(Gs) M&Rv
Usual Suspects

• Capacity
  – Institutional turfs, reaching sub-national
  – Workforce skills and turnover
  – Finance

• Indicators and data
  – Numbers, clarity of policy relevance
  – Realistic data collection, frequency
  – Disaggregation
  – Comparability across levels and contexts
  – Alignment with existing sets and practices
New Suspects

• Procedural
  – Get transparency, participation, universality

• Substantive
  – Integrating SD complexity
    • Was less an issue with MDGs and NVPs
    • Beyond pillars (silos), towards dimensions
  – Hitting the political fan
    • Surviving national politics (councils come & go)
    • Seeing the “political will” for the elephant it is
Transparent, universal, inclusive, what’s not to like?

With a good system approach we’ll have all the evidence needed.

Vive les SDGs!

That will work! We just need the political will!

Political will? Do I smell an elephant?
Needs

• Process
  – Flexible to national context (CBDG…)
  – Universality for mutual learning
  – Transparency & inclusiveness for broad view

• Substance
  – Integrated SD
    • Systems, not silos, of 3 dimensions
  – Admit the elephant
    • Reflective and confront PE, national & global
3. Opportunities for Effective M&Rv
10 M&Rv Principles

- Voluntary, country owned, state-led
- Inclusive, transparent, universal
- Country-defined priorities, inspired by global goals
- Encompassing, covering SDGs and MOI’s
- Through existing mechanisms as much as possible
- More rigorous than past reviews
- Use constructive exchange of experience, solutions

- Flexible form: internal, external, peer-reviews?
- Mechanisms: Not at annual HLPF, but maybe at regional levels (Commissions, OECD?)
Opportunities

• European engagement
  – Share their M&Rv experience
  – Build capacity collaboratively
  – Show innovation and leadership
  – Support DCs technically and financially

• How?
  – Ongoing within Europe? (as here…)
  – Bilateral and multilateral links
UN-DESA’s Response

• Supporting inter-gov UN discussions
  – Emphasising principles

• Will support national implementation
  – SD Integration tools and CD
  – Guidelines and CD to implement reviews
  – KM through CoPs and networks

• Pilot and Scale-up
  – Across regions, contexts and sizes
  – Including Europe
Discussion Questions

• Is this really different than for Europe?
• What can Europe gain in linking beyond?
• What can it offer?
Thanks!

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