

16:05 – 17:20 Fourth Session: Designing SDGs that foster human development within planetary boundaries (including climate change and natural resources management), Co-Chairs Ambassador Makau and Louise Kantrow and Gisbert Glaser

16:05 – 16:30 Speakers

- Dr. Ian Noble: Scientific & Technological Community Major Groups
- Bernadette Fischler: Climate Change, NGO Major Groups
- John Drexhage: Business & Industry Major Groups
- WADS Wijetunge: Children and Youth Major Groups

Questions

- How can the SDGs be designed in order to focus on the effect of human development within planetary boundaries addressing the needs of the most vulnerable?
 - How can the SDGs concerning human development be designed in order to take advantage of the richness of experience of those who are affected, as they also have unique understanding of potential solutions?
 - How to address climate change in the SDGs without going into parallel negotiations with UNFCCC?
 - How to create legally binding mechanisms to protect and clean up the global commons; oceans etc.?
 - How to create incentives to implement the existing MEAs as part of SDGs?
 - How to address loss and damage and historic liability?
 - How to give a voice to future generations?
 - How to incorporate emerging challenges with impact on planetary boundaries and strong potential for fostering interlinkages such as sustainable urbanisation and sustainable consumption & production?
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- My name is John Drexhage and I am here as a participant in the Global Business Alliance for the Post 2015 Development Agenda and representing the CEO of the International Council for Mining and Metals in these discussions. This Alliance, as Norine Kennedy alluded to this morning, is a successor to a series of business constituencies engaged in UN Level Discussions on Sustainable Development, the most recent of course being the Rio +20 negotiations held last year.
 - As a reflection of the new and deeper directions being sought for the post 2015 discussions, as Ambassador Korosi stated this morning, the GBA has developed a statement of shared business messages which I believe are relevant for this panel's discussion on human development within planetary boundaries.
 - The questions developed for the panelists are interesting and appropriate to the extent that it focuses on the needs of the most vulnerable.

- The view of the business alliance is that addressing the needs of the most vulnerable is, first and foremost, about tackling the systemic problem of extreme poverty once and for all.
- Vulnerability is not merely a geophysical issue; as, if not more important are the socio-economic conditions of those societies, their lack of basic infrastructure and social and health institutions to appropriately respond.
- The Alliance recognizes and promotes the efficient management of resources that works to ensure a net positive contribution over the long term: that contribution must effectively account for all relevant aspects of sustainable development, covering economic growth, social equity, good governance and environmental protection.
- Building resilience means designing and implementing governance regimes that promote smart and clear policies and regulations that minimize bureaucratic interruption and corruption.
- Historically, and there is no reason to assume that will change, poor nations have managed to reach new levels of prosperity by first responsibly managing their natural resources: those successful ones are those with governments that used those revenues that focused on good governance and sought to ensure a fair deal for its citizens. The rights of indigenous peoples is a core, critical aspect of good governance. The resource extraction industry groups in the Business Alliance fully supports such approaches and is increasingly exploring how it can work to support governments that wish to take such directions.
- Beyond poverty eradication, one of the more effective means of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable is to create effective basic infrastructures around transportation, electricity, energy, water, and sustainable resource management: interestingly, these are precisely the elements that are required for businesses to operate effectively.
- Globally, nations should work to develop and support effective corporate sustainability rules that align human rights, labor, anti-corruption and environmental principles.
- More specifically relating to the issue of planetary boundaries, the framework of the discussion needs to be enlarged from limits to opportunities. The issue of planetary boundaries will be more effectively addressed if this is framed in a way that incents technological development and that inspires innovation.
- In short, it needs to be solutions oriented that takes advantage of human ingenuity and technology development. There are many examples in the past: the electricity revolution at the end of the 19th century; the Green Revolution in agriculture in the 20th century point to the capacity of the human species to respond to challenges.
- Innovation provided the way forward in the past. I am confident that taking the same positive approach will bring us closer to a longer term, sustainable future than resignation at our prospects. And that includes making sure we engage with those that are the most directly affected: micro banking; gender empowerment; small and medium enterprises are where innovation is often first found and implemented. As Leo Mirani of Quartz magazine wrote, “We need to see a world where the poor go from copying new technologies to creating it.” We need

- governments to develop policies that support the entrepreneurial spirit in these key groups including by collaborating with the larger business community.
- On a couple of the questions raised for this session: it would be advisable that the SDGs NOT become entwined in the multilateral negotiations around climate change. To try and do so will only result in ‘issues management’ behavior on the part of most delegations and will detract us from the real remit of this process: sustainable policies that work to extinguish, once and for all, poverty eradication.
 - Finally, focusing ONLY on climate adaptation funds or designating liability will delay effective actions for those who are in the most need. The way forward in addressing their vulnerability is through poverty eradication, good governance and maturing institutions and infrastructure that can enhance overall societal resilience.