

Dialogue between FfD Co-Facilitators, civil society and business - 29 January 9:00am EST (NY)

Notes/Commentary

- There was a 7-minute delay in starting the webstream, so a large part of the chairman's discussion was cut off
- Towards the end of the discussion, there were quite some technical difficulties on the side of the organizers, so it was hard to hear the speakers
- Only few of the speakers introduced themselves by name/organization, so we decided to organize the summary based on overarching topics of discussion rather than individual speaker's points
- Since the meeting was only 45 minutes long, discussion stayed rather vague and were more concerned with procedure than content

Co-Chair's Introduction

The first Co-Chair pointed out that although many of the topics on the agenda of the FfD3 have been topics of individual conference, it is the role of FfD3 to create an inclusive process for a broader agenda that draws together points from different agendas, finds points of intersection and develops models, policies and approaches to find an overarching agreement. He raised the question whether FfD3 should be more of a box that can fit every possible item into it or a platform that allows for more flexibility for an evolving agenda. Furthermore, the Co-Chair emphasized the need for increased technology use and the advance of innovation to solve questions of climate change, limited oil supply and renewable energies. While emphasizing that developing and developed countries need to find a common agreement that works for both sides, he ended his introduction with "We only have questions, we don't have answers."

Stick to previous agreements (Monterrey/Rio) or reinvent the wheel?

There was a strong statement by the first speaker representing civil societies that the FfD3 should stick to the Monterrey Declaration because anything else would imply losing important progress for NGOs. The speaker articulated the desire for linking and framing FfD3 through Monterrey and Doha. Another speaker extended this to not only pertain to civil society but climate change solutions; political and non-binding statements made within the FfD3/SDG context should not interfere with the Paris Declaration or any other legally binding agreement that promote accountability. There was general consensus to not have to rebuild the whole house / reinvent the wheel.

The Co-Chair opened this up for discussion by asking how the financing framework can be useful in addressing multiple (often cross-cutting) challenges. Another delegate replied by indicating that the financing framework should work as a platform upon which further action can be implemented, that fills holes from Monterrey (e.g. support for SMEs, rule of law) and that enumerates sources of financing. Delegates discussed the ways that trade can function as a means of financing development, as well as the opportunities in which data can measure capital flows and promote tax cooperation.

Division of Main Body vs Annex

Considerable time was spent discussing which parts of the declaration should be part of the main body and which should be presented in the annex. There was a strong call to clearly outline solutions in the main body and leave unclarified areas of discussion to the annex where they could only confuse and inhibit action.

Tailoring suggestions to fit policy-makers

One of the central difficulties in drafting the FfD3 is the fact that although many of the issues addressed are cross-cutting (capacity-building, climate change, technology), there should be a way in which the declaration specifically addresses the role pivotal change-makers can have (national and subnational government, cities, civil society). To this end, one speaker finds, one should draw on piloted and proven financial structures involving inter alia the private sector.

Way forward

One delegate suggested setting up dedicated days for civil society and business to enable a two-way dialogue rather than gathering people in a multi stakeholder meeting.

The meeting adjourned with a commentary by the second Co-Chair who called on delegates to draw on closer links to the SDG agenda and not be “that conservative”. His suggestion was to build on the three pillars from Rio and to focus on finding answers to address poverty and climate change cohesively. The Co-Chair also emphasized that he hopes civil society and business will make their voices heard in Addis Ababa, but this would require strong coordination with regional and provisional partners.