

Speaking points for the Special Event CFS 40

By

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The post-2015 process and the CFS – some key points Camilla Toulmin

1. It's a big global conversation, with multiple inputs. There are a large number of arenas and proposals feeding into the process. There is a huge amount of energy generated by the process and a lot of bottom-up thinking and practice being generated. The question is how much of this reaches the people who are in the negotiating process? How much of it sticks? Do you know who is representing you and your interests in the OWG for example, when will decisions be made?
2. We are part of a global group of thinktanks trying to make sense of all the process, proposals and energy being generated and helping turn it into clear simple messages – IRF2015. Help the negotiators by offering them room to think together and exchange ideas.
3. This builds on the MDG process, so I hope we've learned some lessons from that. The new set of goals being proposed is more broad based. It includes vitally important rights, justice, governance issues. We also understand much more about planetary boundaries, the limits to the world's ecological systems especially climate change. These need to be built into the new set of goals. We also have moved on since 2000 in major ways – big shifts in geopolitics – a separation of the world in developed and developing, into N and S doesn't really work anymore. Its much more mixed up, with a far more multipolar pattern of power. But we've also got much better communication tools which means that people can get heir voices and concerns known globally – its really a question of how much people at the top want to listen.
4. We should also be building on lessons from other parallel processes such as getting the VG designed, discussed and agreed. The huge importance of taking time to listen and learn.
5. We're not going to solve the planet's problems through a top down process and treaty making alone – we saw that at COP15 in 2009 - but it is certainly part of the process. There is a lot of valuable action at sub-national level in many places – towns and cities, districts, neighbourhoods. This seems to be the social and administrative framing that makes much more sense for people to take action jointly.
6. For the CFS, its important to focus on one or two things and make hem happen, not be too dispersed. EG zero hunger, and land rights. Neither of them are rocket science. It's a question of political will.