SDGs and post-2015 in the European Union – the CSO perspective

Massimo Pallottino
maxpallottino@gmail.com
Questions

- What is needed in Europe/Italy to implement SDGs?
- What can the CSO community contribute to finalizing and implementing SDGs?
- How important is CSO/stakeholder participation in SD policy in Europe in general?
Who are we?

- Italian Civil Society networks, coordinated by CONCORD Italia, and GCAP Italy

- In relation with: CONCORD Europe -> European Task Force/Beyond 2015 Europe

- In relation with: Global Beyond 2015 Campaign; GCAP
What are we doing?

- Following up the different processes, identifying policy dialogue spaces in order to influence the outcomes at national, European and global level

In Europe: following up the different processes where a European position is discussed and adopted

In Italy:
- Regular participation to the thematic table on post-2015
- Organisation of GCAP thematic workshops (2013/2014), involving CSOs, institutions, universities, other stakeholders
- Various workshops and activities ‘Italian Semester Project’ (Concord Italia + various other partners)
- Position papers: Post-2015, Food, Private sector
- Discussion papers
- Beyond 2015 national consultations (09/09/2014)
Implementing SD? Our main concerns

- Fragmented and difficult to follow process
- Difficulties in reaching a courageous consensus; more ‘defensive’ debate
- Silo effect
- Concerns for policy coherence (different and somehow unconnected policy dialogue spaces)
- Need for a leap forward and for a transformative agenda!
- SDGs: limits but opportunities
I. A transformative agenda

- Ensuring public opinion support to SDG process: need for a courageous and synthetic agenda
- Converging sustainabilities: economic, social, environmental. Beyond 2015, beyond the rhetoric!
- Equity/equality within and among generations: inclusion but also a reflection on vertical inequalities
- Key elements: human rights; multidimensional understanding of poverty; environmental degradation and climate change; interlinkages and policy coherence; means of implementation
2. Enabling the change

- A fuller understanding of what makes things to happen
- Financial means of implementation: a renewed commitment
- Non financial means: attention to the different enabling factors! (policy coherence, technology and knowledge management, capacity development)
- Participation as major enabling factor
3. Who sets the agenda?

Participation: can we be serious about that?

- Overcomplex processes: do not favour participation.
- Looking at the ‘intermediary bodies’, or ‘jumping the queue’?
- What do indicators indicate? Technical solutions or new ways for a more just world?
- Hypertechnicization of targets: does not favour participation
- “What” objectives and “how” objectives
- Trade-off between global and local: far from being successfully addressed

The way forward: locally set robust, independent and appropriate accountability mechanisms, and open policy dialogue spaces at local level.
THANKS!