

THE NORWEGIAN FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Contact Person: Tine Kronen
Address: Storgt. 11, 0155 Oslo
Tel: +47 23 01 03 00
Fax: +47 23 01 03 03
Email; forumfor@forumfor.no
Web: www.forumfor.no

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED

1. The role of UN in setting norms and delivering premises and the respect of the UN Treaty has to be strengthened. Basically, the UN reforms should contribute to solve the problems addressed in the Millennium Declaration.
2. The linkage between development and environment must be strengthened, and the environmental pillar in sustainable development must be more powerful. There is also a need to strengthen the UN work targeting women and youth. Peace building is a condition for sustainable development.
3. There is a potential for UN to deliver more efficiently results with regards to development, human aid and environment, without compromising the democratic decision-making of UN or limit the responsibility areas of UN.
4. There is a tendency that the most important decisions are taken in WTO, The World Bank and the IMF, institutions where the rich countries have more power than the poor countries.
5. There is a strong need to ensure a better financing of the UN.

PROPOSALS FOR APPROACHES OR SOLUTIONS

6. The proposals of the panel for organising UN bodies should be based on how the MDGs efficiently might be achieved.
7. The implementation of the principles of the UN Treaty should be strengthened. UN is given the task to be the multilateral institution also with regard to trade, economy and finance. These areas are even more important to developing countries than development, human aid and environment. UN must be enabled to conquer power and position on areas dominated by WTO and the Bretton Woods institutions.
8. It is necessary to coordinate better on the country level. A better coordination should include other donors. UN should aim at coordinating also the bilateral aid.
9. It is important to differ between political and organisational coherence. In politics diversity is welcomed, while organisational coherence should be based on the priorities of the receiver country. It is a goal that the receiver country itself can be able to coordinate. A local UN coordinator as a contact point might be useful. The UN system on the country level can be more efficient through common services, especially within sectors (health, education, etc). The local UN coordinator must have financial power.

INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT AND/OR FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

10. It is a wrong approach to start top-down to outline a future institutional structure of the central UN institutions. A new structure might be the result of a better coordination on the country level, also taking into account that a strengthened UN on the country level could have the implication of reducing the big UN bureaucracies of the headquarters. Still it is very important not to weaken UN as the most important institution to resist the global power of the rich countries and the institutions they govern.
11. To strengthen the environmental work of UN, UNEP should be upgraded to a World Environmental Organisation or a UN Environmental Organisation.
12. A reformed UN has to put more focus on women issues and the situation of the younger generation. In addition to integrate women issues into all UN bodies, there is a need to strengthen UNIFEM. To strengthen the UN work with youth, the World Program of Action on Youth should be implemented, and the Youth Section of UN should be given more resources.