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Reviewing for Results: Incentives for cross-sectoral “Nexus” orientation at different levels

A03 Special Session „The Need for
Horizontal and Vertical Coordination in Governing the WEF Nexus“
May 19, 2014, Bonn Conference “Sustainability in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus”

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Starting Point:

The Need for Coordination in Governing the WEF-Nexus

If the challenges in the WEF-Nexus are to be dealt with properly, then *cross-sector cooperation and coherence* will have to improve.

But *how? Incentives* at different levels are needed to spur implementation.

The future *review process* at the new **UN HLPF** (High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development) could and should feature such incentives.

UN Open Working Group negotiates global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, status in May 2014):

Focus Area 2: Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition

- by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems with high yields, and reduce intensity of use of water by at least x%, ... and energy by at least y%.

Focus Area 6: Water and Sanitation

- by 2030, improve water-use efficiency by x% in all sectors, with particular focus on agriculture

Focus Area 7: Energy

- double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030
(*> so far lack of provisions to deal with water and land use*)

(others: cities, SCP, climate change, oceans, ecosystems ...)

Sustainable Development Goals

Open questions:

- Goals, targets and indicators: do they include *supplementary provisions* dealing with the other sectors within the nexus? > If so = excellent basis!
- How to translate universal global goals to *national* level goals and targets? How to generate necessary data, institutions, policies, infrastructure etc. to *implement* in a coordinated and coherent manner?
> Needs *incentives* and *means* to do so!
- *Follow-up process*: what monitoring and accountability framework, providing *incentives* and *means of implementation*, with eye on *cross-compliance* w/i Nexus?

High-level Political Forum on SustDev

Background: Resolution 67/290, July 2013

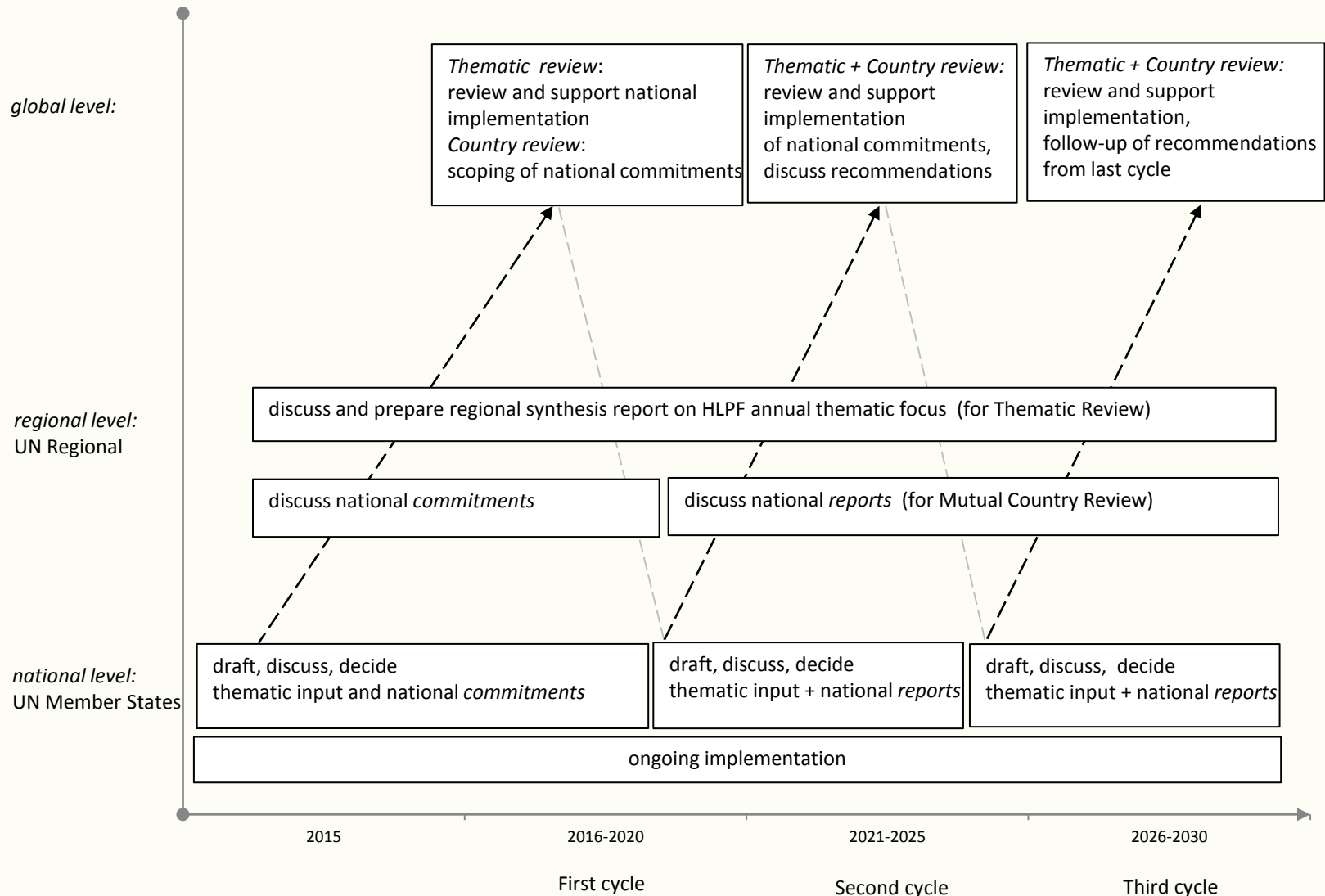
- *voluntary, State-led*
“regular reviews, starting in 2016,
on the follow-up and implementation of
sustainable development commitments and
objectives, including those related to the
means of implementation,
within the context of the
post-2015 development agenda“

Proposal: Spur action via a “commit & review” mechanism

Bottom-up and multi-level design:

- start at *national* level with countries drafting a coherent SD strategy, incl. IWRM plan and national time-bound (Nexus) *commitments/targets*
- use UN *regional groups and commissions* for regional Mutual Country Review to prepare the
- *global* HLPF part of the review:
 - *Thematic review*: Countries and regional commissions would prepare an report on ECOSOC/HLPF *annual theme* (e.g. WEF Nexus)
 - *Mutual country review*: Ask all countries of *one* regional group to first produce a *commitment* and later a *report* on the national implementation of goals

Proposal: „Commit & Review“ Mechanism



Incentivise + link to means of implementation

Start *voluntary* with pilot countries, provide for *incentives* so that everyone wants to participate:

- during first round of review assess also special *needs* of every country in terms of *means of implementation* and
- assist with access to *financial and technical support* and *best practices* in terms of successful policies and institutional structures

- ensure an *integrated cross-sector perspective*, by rewarding Nexus-thinking in targets and policies, e.g.
- linking the allocation of funds to “*Nexus criteria*”,
 - listing best-practices only if they are “*Nexus-smart*”

High-level Political Forum on SustDev

*Resolution 67/290, July 2013: „(8) Decides that the forum (...) shall conduct regular reviews, ... (c) Shall provide a **platform for partnerships...**”*

Also working with Partnerships

- *Global Water Partnership: IWRM tool box*
- *IUCN/IWA Nexus Dialogue on Water Infrastructure Solutions*
- many others, also in other sectors, e.g.
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
or
German Food Partnership

→ review their Nexus orientation

- if absent: ask to realign
- if useful tool for implementation of WEF nexus: support and scale-up

In short: Reviewing for Results – incentives for cross-sectoral “Nexus” orientation at different levels

- Starting point: WEF-related global Post-2015 **SDGs**
 - *National Commitments*: nexus goals and targets
 - Embedded in *national SD strategy* on *how* to implement:
 - Identify appropriate *policies*: e.g. IWRM plan, rebuild subsidies and infrastructure, also *institutions* with coordinating and monitoring capacities
 - Identify appropriate financing, technology transfer and other *means of implementation*, also *partnerships* if beneficial
- **Annual reviews**, geared at *constructive learning, experience sharing* and *effective support* (carrot), applying “**Nexus criteria**” and multi-level and multi-stakeholder *peer pressure* (stick)
- *National consultations*
 - *Regional peer reviews*
 - *Global thematic and mutual country review (ECOSOC/HLPF)*



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Further reading:

- Beisheim, Marianne 2014: *The Future HLPF Review*. Criteria and ideas for its institutional design, Working Paper FG 8, 2014/01, Berlin: SWP.
- Beisheim, Marianne and Andrea Liese (Eds.) 2014: *Transnational Partnerships – Effectively Providing for Sustainable Development?* Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Beisheim, Marianne 2013: *The Water, Energy & Food Security Nexus*. How to Govern Complex Risks to Sustainable Supply? SWP Comments 2013/C 32, Berlin: SWP.
- Beisheim, Marianne 2012: *Partnerships for Sustainable Development*, SWP Research Paper 2012/RP 03, Berlin: SWP.