

The Political Process

Tuesday October 11th, 1045-1215

Introductory Remarks

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I- Overview

- -The international setting - 1992 vs 2012:
 - 1- “The fall of the Berlin Wall vs the fall of Wall Street.”
 - 2- Optimism & international cooperation vs Pessimism & lack of trust.
 - 3- Threats to the leading economies + surge of emerging economies.

II- Key Challenges

1- Multiple international crises:

a-Financial crisis.

b-Food crisis.

c-Natural Catastrophes.

2-Evolving Regional Setting:

a-Arab spring: Transition + sensitivity.

b-Accountability (public opinion/expectations).

III- What are the negotiations about?

1-Implementing previous commitments & agreed outcomes (in order to move on solid ground or avoid common responsibility?):

a-UNFCCC & Kyoto. + Rio & Rio+10.

b-Bali. c-Copenhagen + Cancun. d-Durban?

e-Rio+20?

2-Moving the goal posts (in order to broaden participation or lock-in competitive advantages?):

b-Bali. c-Copenhagen + Cancun. d-Durban?

e-Rio+20?

IV- Prospects for Durban & Rio+20

- 1-Do these objectives really have to be at the expense of each other?
- 2-Are preconditions the right answer to the crisis of confidence?
- 3-Is it possible to commit ALL Parties to concrete actions, in ALL the fields of the Convention?
- 4-Can (or rather should) we aim at a “Legally Binding Outcome” before (instead of) fulfilling the current commitments?
- 5-What binds whom?

V- Conclusions

- 1-Implementation of commitments in the region (in developing countries) should address pressing problems (water scarcity/food production, etc).
- 2-It should not arrest development opportunities.
- 3-It should not affect regional competitive advantages (energy/capital/transportation routes).
- 4-It will have repercussions. Therefore it should be consistent with public expectations.

Thank you