Comments on Morocco HLPF Report

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Outline

• 1 Morocco key report highlights
• 2 CSO Inclusion
• 3 Opportunities and Challenges
1 Key report highlights

• 1.1 Contextualizing the 2030 Agenda
• 1.2 Recommendations regarding the SDGs implementation
1 Contd

• 1.1 Contextualizing SDGs
• Government Led SDGs Workshop (3/4 May 2016) with the participation of parliamentarians, local governments, CSO and UN System.
• 4 panels: Humanity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships
• One day (5 May 2016) devoted to CSOs and local governments
1 Contd

1.2 Report Recommendations:

• The need to extend SDGs ownership process (esp. by ministerial departments and public institutions)

• Necessity to ensure the coherence between SDGs and national priorities (sectoral strategies, advanced regionalization, etc.);

• Promote convergence and coordination of public policies; and

• Strengthen the statistical information system
2 CSOs Inclusion

• 2.1 the 2030 Agenda: A UN-Driven Process
• -UN Agencies in Morocco designed the whole process of national consultations, mobilized international resources (esp. from the EU) and identified the partners (government bodies, parliamentarians, local governments and CSOs)

• -This approach raises the issue of national and local ownership.

• -Being non-mandatory, the Agenda’s implementation might turn into a race to international funding.
2 CSOs Inclusion

- 2.2 Upstream consultations on the Post 2015 Agenda (in 2013): ‘consult people about our common future in order to set broad guidelines’.
- Partners: UN, Moroccan government, civil society

- 2 months, 30 consultations, 14 focus groups, esp. with vulnerable populations, 800 participants.

- Of special interest:
  - workshop on ‘Youths in Post 2015 Development Agenda in Morocco’.
  - 40/50 youths from various cities and backgrounds representing CSOs.
  - 2 days workshop focused on 3 themes: Right to Information and Sexual Reproductive Health and Equality, Education and Employment, Governance and Participation
2 Contd

• Debate and recommendations focused on: Finance for Development; Human Rights and Good Governance; Education, Employment and Training; Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
2 Contd

• 2.3 After the adoption of 2030 Agenda:
• National consultation with CSOs and other national stakeholders in preparation of HLPF (May 5\textsuperscript{th}, 2016)
• --100 participants
• Objectives:
• --Raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the HLPF
• --Supporting CSO and OS agreement on a strategy for better coordinating their engagement at the national level
3 Opportunities and Challenges

• --Opportunities:
• --National strategies (esp. renewable energy)
• --COP22 to be held in Marrakech (focus on action items to achieve the priorities of the Paris Agreement):
  • --A great opportunity to raise awareness of climate change and get Moroccan civil society involved in the 2030 Agenda.
• -- CSO Coalitions and associations are mushrooming in Morocco.
3 Contd

• Challenges
• -- Morocco is still in the planning phase in terms of its approach. The problem is that if no action is taken in the first 1000 days of the SDGs, then governments risk leaving behind people behind and failing to achieve certain goals altogether. Morocco implementing neoliberal policies and austerity measures harmful for gender equality, women’s empowerment and social justice
• -- UN System taking the lead, which raises questions about national ownership
• -- Coordination and convergence challenges of public policies; these policies are rarely assessed and subjected to follow up mechanisms
3 Contd

• Limited participation of CSOs: in terms of interactions with public officials, incorporation of CS inputs in the government review report+

• Moroccan civil society is still fragmented (no national CS platform on the SDGs)

• Expertise, capacity building and access to information are badly needed if CS is to live up to its responsibilities in monitoring and challenging government commitments regarding SDGs .....>> CS not proactive

• The civic space is constrained by the Moroccan government (freedom of press..)
3 Contd

• CSOs should fight for a Permanent and independent Forum for sustainable development and present shadow reports.