

Round table 3 – 21 June 2012 (16.20h)

Sustainable Development Dialogue Rapporteur - Mary Robinson

Two minute feedback to Head of State Roundtable

AS DELIVERED

Excellencies, colleagues and friends,

I am very pleased to be here to carry some of the messages generated by the Sustainable Development Dialogues to you at this summit on environment and development. The recommendations generated in the ten sustainable development dialogues should be included in the report of this roundtable to the Summit to inform strong actions on sustainable development.

I have a sense that if you, the high level government representatives, had participated in these dialogues and had heard the views, concerns and vision of the future that the broad base of constituents shared during these fora – you would have given your negotiators a different mandate: a mandate to create the future we want and which the earth needs.

We came to Rio because we need a new sustainable paradigm for development based on rights and equity – the one we have has proven itself unsustainable. The Brazilian government gave us the opportunity to reach out to broader constituencies and hear wider voices –and they are to be commended for this – but unfortunately these voices were not incorporated into the text you have before you.

Indeed, I believe that the frustration that many of your constituents will feel due to the lack of urgency and commitment to act differently – will motivate them to work on a parallel pathway to fill the gaps left by the Rio text and deliver the future they need.

I had the pleasure of participating in the Dialogue on food and nutrition security where the panellists – stimulated by the vibrant discussion in the room and online - adopted a recommendation focused on eliminating misery and poverty-related malnutrition by empowering women farmers, small holder farmers, young farmers and indigenous people.

In this regard it is critical to ensure their access to land, water and seed, as well as their full involvement in public decision making regarding food production and food and nutrition security.

People will mobilise themselves to make sure that the world we pass on to our children and grandchildren is safe, equitable, prosperous and sustainable. The legacy of Rio+20 will not be the document you endorse – it will be the mobilisation of people to build the future they desire.

Bearing in mind the huge efforts made, not least by the Brazil, to agree the current draft, it seems appropriate to end with the words of Michelangelo:

‘The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.’

Thank you.