Low Emissions Pathway Workshop

Transforming Our World: The SD Agenda for 2030 and the Paris Agreement:

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2015: A Critical Year in Setting the International Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. 21st United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

2. United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015
   25-28 September 2015, New York

3. Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3)
   13-16 July 2015, Addis Ababa

4. Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR)
   14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan
Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Successor to the Millenium Development Goals, intended as an internationally endorsed and comprehensive framework for achieving sustainable development globally, through the coordination/leadership of UN and Bretton Woods institutions.

- Post-2015 Agreement includes 4 elements:
  - Declaration
  - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - Means of Implementation and Financing (MOI)
  - Monitoring, review and verification
Areas of Material Import to Oil & Gas Industry in the SDGs

- **Fossil fuel subsidies**: indicator is ‘set’:
  - Amount of fossil fuel subsidies, per unit of GDP (production and consumption), and as proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels
  - Questions remain: Proposed indicator lacks clarity on a number of fronts. "Amount of fossil fuel subsidies per unit of GDP" does not define the scope of what subsidies actually represents. Highly encourage use of WEO data on consumption based subsidies, but there is no comparable data base for production based subsidies. Also need to define "total national expenditure on fossil fuels" : do you intend public expenditure only?

- Definition of ‘sustainable energy’ beyond traditional understanding of renewables

- Productivity/efficiency

- Material Footprint

- Anti-corruption (definition of ‘illicit financial flows’)

- Equity

- Corporate reporting
Follow Up to the Launch of Transforming Our World

- The Inter Agency Experts Group (IAEG) of the UN Statistical Commission is mandated to develop indicators. Is advised by a High Level Group of 24 other statistical offices.

- Aim is for it to be a technical, ‘non-political’ exercise

- Indicators set at UN Statistical Commission meeting held, March, 2016. Majority of indicators are already set (close to 130). Some 75 indicators problematic either from a perspective of lack of accepted methodology and/or data.

- Regardless of deadlines, it is clear that indicators will NOT be set in stone, with formal review guidelines likely to be adopted.

- IAEG and High Level Group likely to be ‘permanent’ home for indicators development.
SDGs and Climate Policies

1990 – 2015:

- Poverty (proportion of population earning $1.25 or less a day) halved
- GHG emission growth: ca. 4% per annum or 80%-90% growth from 1990
SDGs and Climate Policy

- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture:
  - Implications for fertilizer production processes, particularly natural gas (urea) in:
    - providing food security
    - easing pressure for deforestation
SDGs and Climate Policies

- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Implications for energy use:

- U.S. currently uses 13% of the nation’s electricity consumption towards water services
- Growing conflict between needs for water in servicing energy industry and consumer needs
SDGs and Climate Policies

- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- 1.1 billion people live without access to electricity

- Indicators on electricity access, renewables, efficiency and clean fuels (not defined): which take precedence?

- India as the ‘testing ground’: looking to quadruple energy supply by 2040. Today, 240 million without access
SDGs and Climate Policy

- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Indicators: GDP (absolute and per capita) growth, resource productivity

- No INDCs are proposing measures/interventions that would radically break link to traditional energy practices (WEO)
SDGs and Climate Policy

- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Strong areas of convergence with climate/clean energy policies
- Is ‘cell phone’ phenomenon transferable to ‘clean’ and sustainable wealth creation?
Fossil fuel energy subsidies addressed:

Target: “rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances….”

Indicator: “Amount of ff subsidies per unit of GDP production and consumption and as a proportion of nat’l expenditure on fossil fuels”
SDGs and Climate Policies

- Mostly focused on impacts, adaptation & awareness raising
- Accountability/reporting mechanisms with SDGs or UNFCCC?
- UN Statistical Commision report (12/18/2015): "preparations need to be made to properly inform societies about cc in terms of emissions, occurrence,, impacts, mitigation and adaptation"
- Extremely narrow understanding of CC-SDG interactions
SDGs and Climate Policies

- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

- Implications for livelihoods: BBC Report Feb. 5/2016:
  - Paris climate deal could 'displace millions of forest dwellers'
Concluding Thoughts

- Much more effective coordination/complementarity needs to be developed between the climate and SDG agendas:
  - In the UNFCCC negotiations: “sustainability mechanism”?
  - At national level: development of national SDGs and NDCs
    - CC ‘nationally determined contributions” are already showing conflicts:
      - Need for food security vs. call by many African nations calling for conversion from ‘chemical’ based fertilizers
      - Need for clean energy systems vs. affordability and access
      - Land use based ‘carbon credits’ vs. livelihoods of forest dwellers
  - ABOVE ALL: Poverty reduction and economic growth with no fundamental changes in energy infrastructure in any submitted INDC (WEO)
THANK YOU!

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