ACTION REPORT

2018

UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development
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In 2018, the UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development, RIO+ Centre, continued its work to promote the understanding and dialogue about the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development in a variety of areas.

The pace in which the fourth industrial revolution and new technologies are shaping our economies, societies and environment and in which changes are taking place, obliges us to take a step back and analyse them in the light of sustainable development and from the perspective of countries in the Global South, such as Brazil. Therefore, this year, the RIO+ Centre set a focus on innovation and technology and closed the year with a successful 2-days Global Forum on Innovation and Technology for Sustainability in Rio de Janeiro that counted with the participation of high-level experts from around the world, including the UNDP Regional Director for Latin America, Luis Felipe López-Calva.

The 8th World Water Forum that took place in Brasilia in March 2018 was an important opportunity to show the work that the RIO+ Centre has developed in this area, most prominently the production of the documentary “Urban Bay” together with Ricardo Gomes in 2017 and the Rio+ Policy Brief publication on Urban Waters.

On Energy and Climate Change the RIO+ Centre organized, together with Furnas, a regional electric power company, a conference on the challenges for the energy sector for implementing the Paris Agreement.

The RIO+ Centre developed a partnership with the Museum of Tomorrow where an exhibition on Sustainable development Goals (SDG) is foreseen for 2019, it collaborated in the publication of various SDG Glossaries for Portuguese-speaking countries and was actively involved in the Global SDG Action Day for the Portuguese-speaking community.

Finally, various guides, toolkits and instruments that focus on the implementation of the SDGs and the promotion of Sustainability in a variety of sectors were developed and supported, such as the area of citizen engagement with a guide of the role of Parliaments for implementing SDGs in Portuguese.

The RIO+ Centre thanks its partners for their continuous support and collaboration. UNDP continues to work on the Agenda 2030, sustainable development and the integrated approach to the SDGs through its programmes and projects in Brazil and all over the world.

*Niky Fabianic, Director i.a. of the RIO+ Centre*
Innovation

In an effort to bring the discussion on the implications of innovation and technologies on sustainable development to the Global South, the RIO+ Centre organized the Global Forum on Technology and Innovation for Sustainability (FITS) in the Museum of Tomorrow in Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 November. Organized in cooperation with the Museum of Tomorrow and the Centro Global de Inovação e Tecnologia em Sustentabilidade (CITS), the forum offered a space for the promotion of innovation and technology focused on inclusive and productive processes that stimulate economic and social progress in harmony with the environment. During the two days of the Forum, Brazilian and international experts as well as practitioners discussed public policies for productivity and competitiveness; education and the future of jobs; private sector engagement; sustainable infrastructure and innovation for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and bioenergy; innovation in the health sector; innovative solutions from the agricultural sector in the Global South to address food security and Finance and investment structures that promote and leverage sustainability. Between the panels, practitioners presented in short interventions (pitches) innovative cases of their work and how these consider the three dimensions of development.

The RIO+ Centre is currently preparing a publication that discusses the different topics of the panels from the perspective of sustainable development to be published in spring 2019.

The event counted with the participation of UNDP Regional Director Luis Felipe López-Calva, who developed the idea of innovating from the public and private sector to strengthen the middle class in the Latin American context for which UNDP has a strong capacity to connect the necessary actors. Other participants where Professor Johann Schot from the University of Sussex, Lidia Brito from UNESCO, Annette Windmeisser from the GIZ, Roberto Jaguaribe from APEX, Valerie Hickey from the World Bank, Alan Bojanic from FAO, Luciano Schweizer from the IDB and many more institutions such as Embrapi, Embrapa, CEBDS, CNI, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, New Development Bank, Universities of Campinas and Rio de Janeiro.
Urban Waters

From 19 to 23 of March, Brasilia hosted the 8th World Water Forum and the Planetarium of the city was transformed into the SDG Planet, a space created to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals based on SDG6 – Drinking water and sanitation. During the four days of the Forum, the programme offered debates on water and governance, on examples of alliances with the private sector for the achievement of this goal as well as on entrepreneurship, water management and sustainable rural development. The RIO+ Centre was present to inform national and international visitors about its work and contributed with the organization of the panel Urban Waters: How do cities manage their biospheres such as oceans, lakes and rivers with representatives of the civil society, the private sector and the federal government: Ricardo Gomes (Instituto Mar Urbano), Bruna Ribeiro (AGEFIS/Federal District Government), Francisco Nilson (R2 Produções, promoter of the “Na Praia”, in Brasilia), and Patricia Menezes (Rede Brasil ODS/Municipality of Barcarena). The Centre also screened the film “Urban Bay” by Ricardo Gomes, and co-organized the panel of Experiences on Water Management, in Mangroves, in Springs and in the Urban Environment by inviting Professor Alex Abiko from University of São Paulo.

On 23 March, in the context of the World Water Forum, Interim-Director of the World Centre for Sustainable Development - Rio+ Centre, Niky Fabianic, and Bolat Bekniaz, Director of the Executive Board of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that foresees closer collaboration in the areas of water resource management, environmental protection, climate change and measures to adapt and mitigate climate change.

As a round-up of the topic, the Rio+ Centre initiated and launched the publication Urban Waters – How does water impact and is impacted by cities and human settlements?. With the contributions from a variety of experts from around the world and case studies from Brazil, Tanzania, India, Mexico, France and various cities in Europe. The publication aspires to discuss water in urban areas not only in terms of water management, governance and infrastructure, as well as their best practices, but also in terms of challenges and opportunities of water bodies as biospheres and ecosystems within and close to urban agglomerations. It will present a variety of international perspectives and examples, and focus on the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of the efforts described.
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This publication is the first of the RIO+ Policy Briefs by the RIO+ Centre with the purpose to discuss policy challenges across the globe from an integrated perspective that encompasses all dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - and to provide policy recommendations to encourage the implementation of solutions that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an integrated manner. The briefs will be made available to policymakers, regulators, sectoral experts, civil society, and the media and will be accessible at www.riopluscentre.org.
Energy and Climate Change

Contributing to the discussion on how to meet the Paris Agreement goals and the SDGs, together with Furnas the RIO+ Centre organized on 17 September 2018 an event about "Energy Generation Dialogues for the fulfilment of Brazil's National Determined Contributions to meet the Paris Agreement goals and the Sustainable Development Goals" with the participation of the Secretary for Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment, Mr. Thiago Mendes. This topic was discussed in two panels that addressed on the one hand the global challenges the energy sector is facing to implement the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, on the other hand, it discussed the research, development and innovation in the sector within Brazil. Latter included the examples such as the Electric Bus in Rio, Wave Power as well as energy generation from solid waste and the thermochemical reactor.

The RIO+ Centre participated in a common action on sustainability with FIRJAN (the Federation of Industries of the State of Rio de Janeiro) and the UN Global Compact on 12 June 2018.

The Environmental Action Seminar had the aim to reflect and encourage a broad debate on sustainability trends. Through attractive and mobilizing lectures by professionals with great experience in the sector, it created a conducive environment to dialogue between the different interlocutors of industry, academia, third sector, organized civil society and other sectors of the economy.

The Seminar was based on the Sustainable Development Goals and addressed the theme "Sustainable Development Goals (ODS) in the Enterprise Strategy".
People, Culture and the SDGs

Initiated in 2018 by the RIO+ Centre and to be continued in 2019 from Brasilia, a strong partnership has been built with the Museum of Tomorrow aiming to make an exhibition on the SDGs. These discussions are on a conceptual stage and, if the necessary financing can be ensured, point towards a launching in May 2019.

For the Global SDG Action Day on 25 September 2018, the RIO+ Centre assisted with the Portuguese version of the toolkit for organizations to register their actions for SDG on the global platform We #act4sdgs. This webinar presented on 5 September was aimed for organizations, individuals and groups and private sector organizations and counted with the participation of partners such as Virada Sustentável, Casa Fluminense, ONG As Charmosas in Brazil and the UN in Mozambique. Then on 25 of September itself, the RIO+ Centre and UNDP participated in the webinar on how to implement the SDGs that aimed to mobilize many more organizations in Portuguese speaking countries. After the webinar, the participation of organizations from Brazil increased from two in 2017 to a 170 in 2018.

In 2018, the RIO+ Centre joined the effort that has been made by the Brazilian United Nations Country Team’s Advisory Group in launching the SDG Glossaries. The set of glossaries, one for each SDG, aims to present, in a qualified manner, internationally agreed definitions as well as those observed as most pertinent to the national reality of the main concepts contained in the 169 targets of the 17 Sustainable Development Objectives. The glossaries address important topics, with a view to bringing them to debate in a neutral manner and in order that people and institutions from the most diverse political segments could propose constructive actions building upon them. In 2018, the publication of the glossaries on SDG 6, 7 and 11 (Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Sustainable Cities and Communities) counted with the contribution of the RIO+ Centre, aiming to increase their awareness specially to Portuguese-speaking countries.

The 2nd Colloquium on Culture Management, an international cooperation on Culture, organized by the Foundation Casa de Rui Barbosa and the Chair for Culture Management of UNESCO. Foundation Casa de Rui Barbosa counted with the participation of the RIO+ Centre on 12 July 2018 to discuss the transversality of culture in the 2030 Agenda and how this sector can
Strategies, Tools and Guides for the implementation of the SDGs and the promotion of Sustainability

On 6 June, the publication "Role of Parliaments in the Implementation of the Goals of Sustainable Development" – O Papel dos Parlamentos na Implementação dos Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável - was launched in Portuguese during the third national meeting of the SDG Brazil Network (Rede ODS Brasil) in Brasilia, in a joint meeting with the Mixed Parliamentary Committee on SDGs at the National Congress. The publication was translated into Portuguese from the original in English, produced jointly by the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption and the Islamic Development Bank.

The RIO+ Centre, together with the Presbyterian Mackenzie University in São Paulo and UN Habitat held a workshop on Project Strategies for Informal Territories in Paraisópolis – Tactic instruments of Development for Project Scenarios of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs on 24 of May in São Paulo.

The workshop counted with the participation of professors from Chile, Ecuador and the UN-Habitat to discuss how Urban Interventions can lever the economy of the communities and contribute to a dignified life.

The LabStrategy presented on this occasion, counts with the participation of a Latin American network of universities with partners in Chile, Ecuador and with contributions from other countries from Europe and Asia. The LabStrategy aims to present a methodology for urban planners, politicians, academics and public and private organizations to help to tackle the challenges faced by each city to become sustainable and to adopt a people-centred-approach with the SDGs as its base to analyse and plan each case.

The document presents cases of strengthening Agenda 2030 through legislative initiatives in different countries. In the publication, a section of Brazilian cases is also presented, which reports how the participation of parliaments in different spheres is essential for the revision and enactment of laws aligned with the Agenda2030.
Also in collaboration with UN Habitat, RIO+ Centre participated at the UN Day organized by the state of Alagoas in Maceió on 5 of June. On the occasion, urban, economic and social development was discussed. The keynote speech of the event was given by Alejandro Echeverri, co-founder and director of the Center for Urban and Environmental Studies at EAFIT University in Medellín, Colombia, responsible for the urban transformations in the Colombian city of Medellín, internationally recognized for its contributions to urban development.

On the occasion RIO+ Centre disseminated its publication Planning Tools for Urban Sustainability: Mapping of Initiatives and Methodologies, a contribution on the theme of sustainable cities and localizing the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The publication maps out various tools and resources supporting sustainable urban development around the world.

The RIO+ Centre has worked to integrate climate finance and cash transfer systems by producing a methodological guide for channelling climate finance into cash transfer systems in order to build resilience. The publication on finance strategies for development Adaptive Cash Transfer - ACT: A Methodological Guide was launched online and aims to provide sustainable development practitioners and stakeholders with information on the process and tools used to design an Adaptive Cash Transfer (ACT) to foster the resilience of the vulnerable to climate shocks.
The World Center for Sustainable Development, RIO+ Center, is a partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Brazil. The RIO+ Centre was created in 2013 in Rio de Janeiro as a legacy of the Rio +20 Conference of 2012, by a wide range of founding institutions, such as the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The mission of the Rio+ Center has been to inform and inspire public policies and practices that lead to a more just and sustainable world, using evidence, promoting a broad-based dialogue and developing actions in alliance with other partners.

One of the main objectives of the Center is to internationally promote the appropriation of a sustainable development paradigm that encompasses the economic, social and environmental dimensions in an integrated way. The RIO+ Centre has, within its scope, made important contributions to reaching this goal and to showing that there may be different pathways towards sustainability, which are not always evident.

Since the Rio+ Conference, the world has considerably changed and new challenges have emerged. Similarly, the RIO+ Centre, which has so far sought to fulfil its initial mandate, is open to address the evolving needs of its founding institutions as a tool for the promotion of sustainable development.