

RIO+

ACTION REPORT

2015-2016



WORLD CENTRE
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.





*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

**World Centre for Sustainable Development
(RIO+ Centre)**

United Nations Development Programme
R. México, 168, 5º andar, Centro
20031-145 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
www.riopluscentre.org
rio.mais@undp.org

Illustrations by Lucas Alves
Designed by Brenda Hada and Darren Ou Yong

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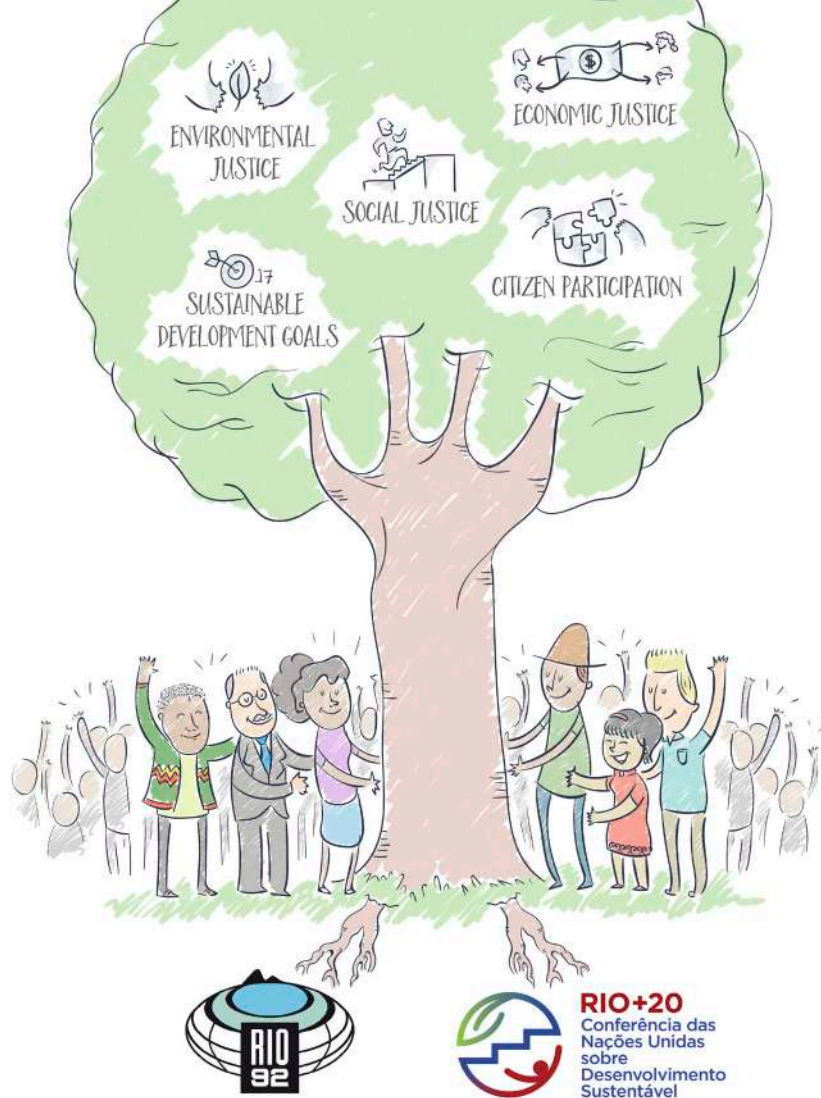
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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rômulo Paes de Sousa

The RIO+ Centre is at the forefront of sustainable development policy dialogue, working with policymakers in Brazil and the larger Global South to advance the understanding of the 2030 Agenda and foster more concerted action and cooperation.

2015 was a critical year in shaping the future of people and the planet.

It was marked by a set of global agreements, from the International Conference on Financing for Development's Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), to the UN General Assembly endorsement of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the long-awaited UNFCCC [Paris Climate Change Agreement](#). Together these landmark agreements will provide the normative framework for international and national development work over the coming 15 years. While the monitoring and accountability arrangements for the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) are still under discussion, the highly participatory nature of the process used to develop the Agenda is likely to spill over into expectations for participatory follow-up and review mechanisms, with active involvement of civil society.

Against this backdrop, the UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development ([RIO+ Centre](#)) is working together with partners to contribute to the global discourse on sustainable development and the SDGs, particularly advocating that issues of equality, integration, participation, and accountability be crystalized in the agreement. From its base in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the RIO+ Centre has been at the forefront of sustainable development

policy dialogue, working with policymakers in Brazil and the larger Global South to advance the understanding of the 2030 Agenda and foster more concerted action and cooperation. Throughout 2015 and 2016, the Centre also has used its capacity as a hub for broad-based dialogue to establish and strengthen spaces for citizen participation in the SDGs.

This report presents key highlights of the RIO+ Centre's work throughout 2015 and 2016. We will continue to leverage the RIO+ Centre's unique convening power to deliver knowledge, analysis, ideas, and tools that support governments at the national, sub-national and local level, civil society, the private sector, and the global development community as a whole in accelerating action towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. We look forward to joining hands in this ambitious mission.

THE RIO+ CENTRE:
**NARRATIVE,
MISSION &
VISION**

The RIO+ Centre is a legacy of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and was set up to keep the commitment to sustainable development alive, both in action and ideas.





The RIO+ Centre is a legacy of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and was set up to keep the commitment to sustainable development alive, both in action and ideas. The Centre was established in June 2013 in Rio de Janeiro as a partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Brazil. As one of the key outcomes of Rio+20, the RIO+ Centre is guided by the Conference's Future We Want Outcome Document, which reaffirms the inextricable link between social, economic, and environmental development, as well as the urgent need to address the various root causes of poverty, inequality, and exclusion. In addition, the recently adopted 2030 Agenda with its action plan of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are underscored by principles of dignity and justice for all provides the overall framework under which the RIO+ Centre develops its work.

The new 2030 Agenda presents an opportunity for the world to question the adequacy of conventional measures of poverty and progress to account for the billions who do not benefit equally from development gains. This questioning is critical if we are to truly implement the “Leave No One Behind” ethos of the 2030 Agenda. Markers such as race, religion, gender, caste, location, lack of voice/political influence, and more generally a disadvantaged position in relation to the distribution of economic opportunities and gains all interact to create persistent exclusion, which has proven to be resistant to piecemeal efforts of change. In addition to facing cultural, economic, spatial and political inequalities, many of the world’s poor and excluded suffer disproportionately from the negative impacts of environmental degradation caused by unsustainable economic activities often undermining their health, dignity and livelihoods. These sources of inequality and poverty and the resulting vulnerabilities need to be addressed through a combination of government programmes, policies and budgets as well as through effective civil society participation and the establishment of clear accountability mechanisms.

In an increasingly multi-polar world, the universality of the SDGs, which make them applicable to rich and poor countries alike, holds the potential of blurring traditional North-South dynamics that has framed development practice for decades, and of promoting South-South and triangular cooperation in various areas covered by the SDGs. Measuring progress against the equitable and sustainable development benchmarks put forth by the 2030 Agenda can have a powerful equalizing effect between countries in the global North and South demonstrating that they may not be as far apart as conventional measures of progress suggest.

OUR WORK

The RIO+ Centre operates under the overall goal of achieving sustainable development for all – particularly excluded and marginalized citizens. We inspire policies and practices that lead to increased social, economic, and environmental justice as the basis of sustainable development.

Our mission is to catalyze the transition towards equitable and sustainable development through policy analysis, advocacy, and broad-based dialogue that leads to action. The RIO+ Centre supports governments' proactive role in appropriating sustainable development paradigms and implementing coherent policies, as well as citizens and civil society in their role as advocates and watchdogs for the implementation of sustainable development commitments. To achieve this, our work focuses on:

- 1. Producing analysis and develop tools** that identify drivers and barriers to the adoption of equitable and sustainable development pathways and inspire action on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 2. Convening broad-based dialogue and action on the design, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development**, bringing together national and international players, including central and subnational governments, the private sector, citizens and civil society organizations in the Global North and South.
- 3. Leveraging Brazil's capacity and experience in sustainable development** to inform and support international efforts towards the implementation of the SDGs, facilitating both South-South and North-South collaboration and increasing the role of the Global South in multilateral fora.



+ GOVERNING BOARD

The RIO+ Centre is one of the six UNDP Global Policy Centres and helps to position UNDP within the global development discourse. The RIO+ Centre is co-funded by UNDP and the Government of Brazil, and is overseen by a Governing Board composed of representatives from each co-founder.

CO-CHAIRS

Government of Brazil: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Undersecretary General for the Environment, Energy, Science and Technology

UNDP: Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), Director

MEMBERS

Ministry of Environment, Vice Minister

Ministry of Social and Agrarian Development, Secretary of Evaluation and Information Management

Ministry of Finance, International Affairs Secretary

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Brazil

FEATURED STORIES

Shaping and Implementing the 2030 Agenda



As a legacy of the Rio+20 Conference where the concept of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initially emerged, the RIO+ Centre uses the SDGs as the main thread that weaves through all of its work and actions. Over the course of 2015 and 2016, RIO+ has influenced discourse and action on the drafting and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, specifically by publishing articles, working papers, policy briefs and blog series, as well as providing technical support and participating as panelist in a wide range of national and international seminars on the new agenda, with particular focus being placed on inequality and leaving no one behind, universality, and integration and policy coherence across the dimensions of sustainable development.

Insights range from highlighting the need to go "Beyond the Eradication of Extreme Poverty" and providing analysis on Brazil's

bold SDG positioning – "Brazil and the Post-2015 Agenda: What has it been defending so far?" – to "Understanding the Rising Powers' Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals", "Making the Case for Gender-Smartness in climate change policies", and advocating for participatory monitoring frameworks that promote accountability in order to "Leave no one behind in Agenda 2030". In the days leading up to the General Assembly's adoption of the 2030 Agenda, RIO+ put forth 17 blogs – the SDG Countdown Blog Series – highlighting the importance of this new agenda in addressing some of the world's most pressing poverty, inequality, and natural resources issues. **The RIO+ Centre provides regular contributions to the national and international policy debate on the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the areas of inequalities, integrated development planning and monitoring.**

In 2015-2016, the RIO+ Centre has

The RIO+ Centre's mission is to catalyze the transition towards equitable and sustainable development through policy analysis, advocacy, and broad-based dialogue that leads to action.





The RIO+ Centre has been an important advocate in mainstreaming statistical data and geographical information as guiding instruments for actions towards sustainable development.

Wasmália Bivar, President of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)

participated as co-organizer or panelist in over 70 specialized events on sustainable development.

The call for integrated and coherent policy making for sustainable development has drawn much attention and concern on behalf of policy makers. As a result, highlighting concrete examples of where social, environmental, and economic priorities have been harmonized are important sources of insight and inspiration.

- At the United Nations Environment Assembly 2, the RIO+ Centre together with the Ministry of Environment (Brazil) brought concrete experiences from Brazil and Colombia into the global spotlight to demonstrate how **integration can be done in practice.**

- The RIO+ Centre played a catalytic role in setting up **Brazil's Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the Post-2015 Agenda (GTI)**, bringing together 27 government ministries and institutions to shape the country's bold propositions for

2030 Agenda. RIO+ has been instrumental in securing civil society participation in the GTI. Through a Presidential Decree in November 2016 the GTI evolved into a permanent commission to oversee the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This commission will have eight (8) ministries and eight (8) civil society members as well as a series of thematic groups.

- The RIO+ Centre is working closely with subnational governments to adopt integrated approaches to planning for SDG implementation, nationally through a **partnership with Minas Gerais state government and internationally with the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (NRG4SD)**. These initiatives provide the tools, methodologies, technical support and international cooperation needed for integrated sustainable development policymaking and planning.

As a hub for dialogue and action in the Global South, the RIO+ Centre also provides direct advisory support for



the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

- **In Cabo Verde**, the SDGs are already shaping national policy discourse with government looking to other countries in the global South for inspiration and concrete technical advice for implementation. Together with the UN country team, UNDP Regional Centre for Africa and UNDP headquarters, the **RIO+Centre joined the Prime Minister and high level government representatives** in planning the country's **pathway to achieving SDGs**.

- The RIO+ Centre has also been instrumental in **supporting the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)**, a national institute with international recognition, in taking leadership on the discussion of the SDG indicators at the national, regional, and global levels. In June 2015, the RIO+ Centre co-organized a major IBGE event where over 70 national institutions gathered to provide technical and substantive feedback on the proposed SDG indicators. Also in June 2015, the RIO+ Centre

supported IBGE in the organization of a regional meeting on the SDG indicators, bringing together representatives from the national statistics offices of the Mercosur countries (Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Venezuela) plus Chile, in order to harmonize the Southern Cone countries' position. Following that, and as a result of interest in Brazil's experience, a detailed survey was rolled-out by IBGE and RIO+ with all national statistical institutions in the Mercosur countries, to strengthen awareness and ownership of the SDG indicators by key stakeholders in these countries.

- Brazil's IBGE represented the Mercosur countries and Chile in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), mandated by the General Assembly with the task of developing the SDG indicator framework at the global level. IBGE now chairs the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) for the period 2016-2018.

A Strategic Alliance for a universal SDG agenda: Germany – Brazil

In the lead up to the adoption of Agenda 2030 and through to its initial implementing phase, the RIO+Centre has worked closely with Germany through a strategic partnership with the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS). This alliance has highlighted three distinct and valuable dimensions of the SDGs agenda, namely the inequality and leave no one behind ethos, the need for an integrated implementation of SDGs actions and the universality dimension that makes Agenda 2030 the responsibility of all countries regardless of development status.

In 2016 alone the RIO+ Centre and IASS co-convened two high level events with representatives of governments from the global North and South, think tanks and

the United Nations, one to advocate for the adoption of participatory and citizen based monitoring and reporting mechanisms in Agenda 2030 – particularly in relation to renewable resources – and the other to discuss the implementation of Agenda 2030 **in** Germany, **by** Germany (observing the impacts of German policies on the ability of other countries to meet their SDG commitments) and **with** Germany (in terms of official development assistance and cooperation). The IASS-RIO+ partnership was also brought into the official venue of the High Level Political Forum at the United Nations in July 2016 where we convened key actors and put forth concrete proposals for Thematic Reviews as part of Agenda 2030 reporting, allowing for more qualitative and participatory reporting on country advances.

RIO+ was nominated to be part of IASS' International Advisory Group for the Renewable Resources and the SDGs Forum alongside a select group of think-tanks and NGOs tasked with guiding discussions and shaping key messages regarding Germany's implementation of Agenda 2030. This partnership has helped the RIO+Centre position itself as a global voice for a transformational 2030 Agenda becoming a pivotal actors in making the SDGs a universal agenda. In 2017, the RIO+Centre will receive a Doctoral Researcher seconded by IASS to the join the RIO+ team to document and contrast the institutional and governance arrangements of Brazil and Germany for the implementation of Agenda 2030.

The Rio+ Centre has positioned itself as a global voice for a transformational 2030 Agenda and we very much value our continued collaboration with the Centre. Our joint efforts are based on the belief that the 2030 Agenda presents a powerful and promising opportunity to shift development patterns towards more equitable, integrated and sustainable pathways. Emphasizing the need to address inequality and inclusion, the Rio+ Centre has made catalytic contributions to an implementation of the 2030 Agenda that will ‘leave no one behind’. Their distinctive approach focusing on: the need to mobilize political will; to develop progressive policies and practices, backed by dedicated budgets; and empowering a vibrant and well-informed civil society, with access to clear accountability mechanisms, puts the Rio+ Centre in a great position to continuously support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In doing so, Rio+ has become a pivotal actor in making the 2030 Agenda a truly universal agenda and we look forward to continue our collaboration.

Alexander Müller, Managing Director of TMG (Think-Tank for Sustainability in Germany) and Study Lead TEEBAgriFood (hosted at UNEP);

Ivonne Lobos Alva, Coordinator SDGs Programme of the Global Soil Forum at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Germany;

Dr. Jes Weigelt, Co-Leader of the Sustainability Governance Programme and Coordinator of the Global Soil Forum at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Germany.



Jump-starting the SDGs in Germany.
Event in Berlin, May 2016.
Photo: IISD Reporting Services

FEATURED STORIES

Sustainable Cities

For the first time in history, more than half of the world's population live in cities. The urban population is expected to grow further by 1.5 billion people between now and 2030, with over 90 percent of this growth taking place in the developing world.

Rapid urbanization is leading to unprecedented demands for land, water, energy, and food while also heightening inequalities and concentrating the poor in vast sprawling slums. But with 60 percent of urban areas still to be built, cities offer an unparalleled opportunity to transform the path of global sustainable development and to transform lives. The 2030 Agenda recognizes this opportunity, and thus has not only dedicated a standalone goal (SDG 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive and safe, resilient, and sustainable) to sustainable cities, but has also highlighted the important role municipal governments have in implementing the goals across all the SDGs. Yet the 17 goals with their 169 targets place a large burden of responsibility on municipalities to deliver and to monitor essential services to ensure no one is left behind. It's for these reasons that cities are said to be where the battle for sustainable development will be either won or lost.

As such, sustainable urban development is an important area of focus for the RIO+ Centre. **We trigger dialogue and develop, tools and partnerships that assist cities with localizing and delivering the 2030 Agenda.**



- **The RIO+ Centre was a key UNDP voice at the historic Habitat III Conference** in Quito, Ecuador and our resounding message was to tackle growing inequalities through more inclusive development in urban centres. An inclusive city enables all groups of people to contribute to creating opportunities, to share in the benefits of development (access to sustainable livelihoods, legal housing and affordable basic services) and to participate in decision-making. The RIO+ Centre led a series of side events focused on Inclusive Growth, bringing together mayors, leading international CSOs, and other UN agencies to draw greater attention to this agenda within the framework of the UN's largest conference on urban issues. It has also moderated the Habitat III Special Session on Inclusive Cities; the UNDP event on Towards Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Cities: Urbanization that Leaves No One Behind; and the Networking Event: Enhancing Urban Resilience through Regions Adapt.

- **Leveraging its position as a Policy Centre based in the global South, the RIO+ Centre works with BRICS countries** on sustainable urbanization strategies, particularly relevant considering that China and India alone will account for more than 1/3 of the global urban population increase between 2014-2050. At the BRICS Urbanization Forum 2016 in Visakhapatnam, India the RIO+ Centre brought issues of SDGs and resilience to climate change to the agenda of this important multi-stakeholder dialogue.

- **In late 2016, RIO+ brokered a strategic partnerships with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability** – to prepare their members and other municipal governments in leading the transition to sustainable development through the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement. This partnership galvanises political will and action in key cities of South America, including Quito, Bogota, Medellin, Montevideo, La Paz, Buenos Aires, Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro amongst others.



- **At the 2016 Rio Sustainability Forum, the RIO+ Centre convened several UN agencies to showcase their initiatives**

underway to support SDG implementation at local level in Rio de Janeiro. The aim was to offer a more coordinated UN system approach for rolling out the SDGs in Rio de Janeiro.

- **In 2016 RIO+ Centre joined the Pacto do Rio,**

an avant-garde multi-stakeholder partnership that builds concrete commitments to sustainable development from six 'powers' of society: government, private sector, civil society organizations, academia, international organizations and the population. As the representative of international organizations, RIO+ brings together international partners and their contributions to Agenda 2030 in Rio de Janeiro.

- In 2016 the RIO+ Centre joined the Favelas Observatory; the National Housing Secretariat of the Ministry of Cities; the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and various grassroots organizations to **assess the feasibility and advance of a transformative project to improve urban mobility** and build better connections between the Favela of Maré and the city of Rio de Janeiro. A report on enhancing urban mobility and inclusion was developed in a participatory way and is now being taken forward by the local government.

TEDxRIO

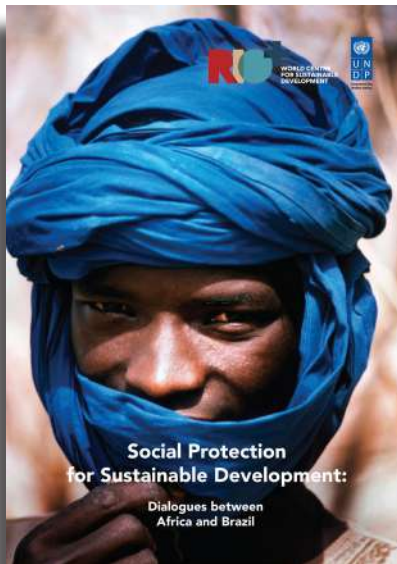
The RIO+ Centre brokered a new partnership with TEDxRio to promote the SDGs. The collaboration was celebrated during the TEDxRio edition on July 2016, which gathered around 500 people in Rio de Janeiro for a series of lectures on education, entrepreneurship, technology and sustainability.

In partnership with RIO+, TEDxRio is expanding their inspirational talks and innovative format to take the form of dialogues in the favelas of Rio (TEDxFavelas) to harness the knowledge ideas, solutions, and perspectives that are often excluded or not recognized. TEDxFavelas looks to revert the existing conceptions of favelas as the source and cause of problems, and rather turn them into a source of solutions and creativity.



FEATURED STORIES

Social Protection for Sustainable Development



Brazil's capacity and experience in social protection policy design and implementation is renowned worldwide. The country was able to cut malnutrition by 82% and lift over 22 million people out of extreme poverty within a decade, also reducing multidimensional poverty from 8.3% of the population in 2002 to 1.1% in 2013, as shown in the [national MDG reports](#). Based on these successes, the Brazilian model is in high demand by policymakers from the Global South. In line with this, **the RIO+ Centre brought together Brazil and 13 African countries in a global event** cohosted by the Government of Senegal, the UNDP Regional Service Centre in Addis Ababa

and the African Union in April 2015 in Dakar, building bridges for dialogue and collaboration on advancing social protection as a key force to deliver on action towards sustainable development.

The final recommendations from this global event resulted in the Dakar Declaration on Social Protection for Sustainable Development (SP4SD), which was subsequently endorsed by the African Union (AU). The recommendations were initially presented at the AU Inter-ministerial Meeting on Social Development, Labor and Employment, of April 2015, and were then endorsed by the 70 ministers present in the First Session of

the Specialised Technical Committee on Social Protection, Labour and Employment. They were also taken forward to the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union. Moreover, the RIO+ led event and the Dakar Declaration has laid the foundations for the development of a pioneer UNDP regional programme on social protection in Africa.

The Dakar event has also provided the substance and narrative of the first RIO+ Flagship Report, **Social Protection for Sustainable Development (SP4SD): Dialogues between Africa and Brazil**. The first flagship report will offer solid background for policymakers in the Global South, providing analysis and evidence to help deliver more coherence between social protection and other sustainable development policies, advancing dialogue and action for the implementation of the SDGs. Our flagship report was launched

by RIO+ Centre and the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa on 22 June 2016 in Gaborone, Botswana as part of the African Union's Consultative Roundtable on the Development of the Protocol on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security.

The RIO+ Centre has worked closely to the UNDP Regional Service Centre in Africa in the development of a regional programme for implementing social protection systems in sub-Saharan Africa. This five-year regional development project is designed to enhance capacities of continental, sub-regional and national institutions to design, implement, monitor and coordinate the delivery of social protection to the most vulnerable populations. The project will work directly with 15 countries to strengthen their national institutions tasked with the delivery of social protection services.



The contribution of Romulo Paes de Sousa, from the UNDP RIO+ Centre, comes therefore at an opportune time especially in light of the implementation of the Marshall Plan in Mauritius. He has provided to us enriching insight on the fight against poverty in the 21st Century and the need for a Sustainable Development Platform.

Hon. P. Roopun, Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment of the Republic of Mauritius

SDGs in Action: Mauritius accelerate efforts to eradicate poverty

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius is taking bold actions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. The island nation is developing a 'Marshall Plan' to eradicate extreme poverty, a comprehensive national strategy to ensure the realization of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Working together with the UNDP Regional Centre in Africa and the County Office in Mauritius, the RIO+ Centre is supporting the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment in the implementation of the Marshall Plan Social Contract Programme. This innovative and ambitious project aims to eradicate extreme poverty, and instigate behavioural change to ensure economic empowerment and social inclusion. The Social Contract is a chief element of the Marshall Plan, a sweeping reform package proposal for the eradication of extreme poverty



Integrating Environmental Dimensions into Social Protection Measures

The RIO+ Centre is pioneering an innovative approach that channels climate finance into traditionally socially-oriented cash transfer systems to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable households in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. In partnership with the UNDP Regional Service Centre in Africa and the Africa Risk Capacity, the RIO+ Centre is developing a methodological guide to design an innovative instrument called Adaptive Cash Transfer (ACT). The new concept of Adaptive Cash Transfer goes beyond the scope and features of traditional cash transfer systems by integrating environmental and climate-related issues and indicators. The methodological guide will be published in December 2016.

A technical meeting was organized in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, bringing together the RIO+ Centre, UNDP in Africa, the African Risk Capacity, UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support and government representatives from Senegal, Niger and Brazil.



Question and answer session during the technical meeting of August 2016

FEATURED STORIES

Engaging People in 2030 Agenda

Raising awareness and involving citizens and civil society in the sustainable development debate is essential to achieving the SDGs and initiating action at the local level. Citizen mobilization and engagement can occur through various modalities, including a more formal method of including citizens in the official policymaking process, gaining insight and including their views and desires for their futures into the design of policies. But engaging people in the discussion can also take a more informal and creative form, one that allows sustainable development to enter the lives of these citizens and connect with them through their everyday activities. RIO+ Centre understands the importance and role that each of these forms of engaging citizens play

in achieving the SDGs, and uses both approaches to fully harness people's forces and actions towards sustainable development. In this way, in 2015-2016, RIO+ has amplified the voices from citizens and civil society to shape Brazil's position on the SDGs and brought attention to sustainable development in local communities, producing results that inspire other nations in the Global South.



RIO+ Talk with Janice Perlman at the French General Consulate in Rio, March 2016



Young Journalist Programme inspires SDG implementation during the Olympics: Rio de Janeiro was on the global spotlight in 2016, hosting the largest sports event on Earth: the Olympic Games. The RIO+ Centre took this historic moment as an opportunity to promote the SDGs to the global news media and millions of visitors and tourists. With the support of the local partner CIEDS (Centre for Integrated Studies and Projects for Sustainable Development), the RIO+ Centre provided training on the SDGs to a group of ten high school students from various neighbourhoods of Rio, who participated in the Young Journalist pilot project. The Young Journalists received training on communications and reporting skills, with the support of a visiting fellow from Columbia University. During the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the RIO+ Young Journalists interviewed hundreds of athletes, coaches, international correspondents, visitors and local residents, producing and featuring stories that relate the Olympic Games to the issue of sustainable development and the SDGs. As a result of the RIO+ Young Journalists initiative, a blog was published with all the stories produced by the participants. Due to the success of the pilot initiative, the RIO+ is now working with CIEDS to establish a long-term capacity building programme to engage the youth in the Portuguese-speaking countries as active reporters on SDG implementation, advancing accountability, and active citizen engagement.

Dialogue as tool to amplify SDG awareness: Building on the Rio Dialogues successes, the RIO+ Centre launched the RIO+ Talks in November 2015 as a new series of public events, with a focus on innovative approaches to the realization of the 2030 Agenda. By convening grassroots organizations as well as key players and influencers with diverse perspectives on sustainable development, the RIO+ Talks offers a unique space for broad-based debate and collaboration, with livestreaming to various institutions worldwide. The RIO+ Talks organized so far include:

- [Social Protection for Migrant Workers](#), October 2016
- [Empowering Humanity: Young Journalists at the Global Summit](#), August 2016
- [Change and Continuity in Rio's Favelas: The Quest for Inclusion over 4 Generations](#), March 2016
- [Data Revolution: Forecasting the Impact of Cash Transfers in Tuberculosis Rates](#), March 2016
- [Legal Mandates in Social Protection in Africa](#), November 2015

Young Journalist blog: <http://jovemjornalista.wordpress.com/>

Global Coalition to Advance Sustainable Development:

The RIO+ Centre has worked with 135 online volunteers assigned through the UNV Online Volunteering Service in a global mapping and network effort with leading think tanks and influential public intellectuals that are shaping the sustainable development discourse in the Global South. Based in over 30 different countries, the UNV online volunteers played a pivotal role in enhancing the RIO+ outreach networks. The online volunteers engaged in this innovative global effort for an initial period of 3 months in the second semester of 2016, supporting the promotion of the RIO+ Centre's work and knowledge products with more than 10,000 different institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States and Industrialized Nations.

Humans of My World for Rio 2016:

On the eve of the 2016 Olympic Games, the world's attention was on Rio de Janeiro, the "marvellous city." Known for their positive attitude, warmth and joy, the locals always have a story to tell, whether in line at the bank, on the road, or at happy-hour after work. Therefore, RIO+

Centre Communications in partnership with UN Headquarters in New York went to the streets of Rio to find out more about the sustainable livelihoods in the city by interviewing common people who are pursuing their dreams while doing great actions locally to transform their daily lives.

Open Working Group on Youth Mobilization for the SDGs:

The RIO+ Centre has led the formation of an advisory group to provide strategy guidance in the design and implementation of creative youth engagement models to inspire UNDP Country Offices worldwide. The RIO+ open working group is composed of key players in advocacy and leading youth activists from Rio de Janeiro and Brazil, including major global organizations such as AIESEC as well as Brazil's largest university, Estácio de Sá, with over half million students. The group was set up in February 2016, when all members produced and endorsed a declaration of commitment. The contributions from the group have been extremely valuable to the RIO+ Centre, including the successful mainstreaming of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in the Junior Enterprise World Conference 2016, which brought together thousands of youth leaders from all over the globe in Florianópolis, Brazil.



Civil society shaping government's position on the SDGs:

A key activity took place in August 2015, when RIO+ facilitated a special event of the Working Group dedicated to mobilizing civil society participation and citizens' inputs to building the Post-2015 Agenda. Counting on the participation of over 100 organizations, this event cohosted with the Brazilian Foreign Ministry advanced accountability and inclusiveness, culminating with the incorporation of the civil society recommendations into Brazil's positions.

RIO+ also assisted in shaping Brazil's stance on the SDGs through facilitating broad-based dialogue across online platforms and surveys with civil society organizations, experts, and citizens alike. Moreover, in the lead up to the official UN negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, the RIO+ Centre produced updated content on the positions of Brazil and civil society, providing a neutral space for dialogue among different perspectives.

Rio Dialogues - Building on Rio+20 legacy:

In 2015, the Rio Dialogues, which was Rio+20 key platform to engage and give voice to citizens, experts and grassroots organizations, was revamped and upgraded by the RIO+ Centre in order to promote debate and action on the

2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs. The Rio Dialogues gained a new space on the role of the youth for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which was launched at Brazil's Third Youth Conference in December 2015.

The Rio Dialogues also worked to enable the organization of a nationwide e-consultation in 2015 on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development regarding access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental issues. The online platform enabled the RIO+ Centre to gather feedback and concrete recommendations and proposals from thousands of citizens, experts and civil society organizations, which were formally submitted to and endorsed by the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following a corporate decision, the Rio Dialogues is being discontinued and the content of the previous discussions are being migrated to the new RIO+ Centre website, to be launched early 2017.

**MY WORLD.
THE UNITED NATIONS
GLOBAL SURVEY
FOR A BETTER WORLD.**



INNOVATIVE & STRATEGIC ALLIANCES for SDG Action

Brazil and France Advocate for Technology Facilitation Mechanism:

As a Global Policy Centre based in a strong emerging economy from the global South, the RIO+Centre is mandated with leveraging Brazil as a convener of countries, coalitions and proposals that resonate with lesser developed countries. Cognizant that the transition to low carbon economies and sustainable development will require new clean technologies that are often high cost, the RIO+Centre and the government of Brazil have put forth concrete proposals regarding the establishment of a technology transfer mechanism that would assist poor countries in this transition. The role of the role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in sustainable development and its link to the universal SDG agenda that seeks to tackle inequality within and between countries was raised at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa in event co-hosted by RIO+Centre, Brazil and France. Through persistent advocacy and international diplomacy, the proposal for a Technology Facilitation Mechanism is slowly advancing to become a reality.

Semester for Sustainable Development: The RIO+ Centre designed and implemented a creative youth mobilization pilot project in Rio de Janeiro to serve as a model for UNDP Country Offices. With support from a local partner, the Escola Nacional de Seguros, the RIO+ Centre organized the Sustainable Development Semester, through which a group of 30 volunteer students engaged in online learning about the SDGs and in real action for the SDGs in their communities. With their mobile phones in hand, the volunteers engaged their communities in mapping creative, small-scale citizen actions for sustainable development. Counting on the support of volunteer photographers, documentarists and producers, the volunteers co-produced with the RIO+ Centre the documentary “ScenaRIO: Sustainability in Action”, showcasing the creativity and power of local citizen action to the implementation of the SDGs. This pilot project on citizen mobilization for the SDGs is now leading to a toolkit and model to support replication by UNDP Country Offices worldwide. Watch full documentary.

WeAppHeroes – Enabling Citizen Action for the SDGs: The RIO+ Centre has worked with UK’s Sunscious Limited in the development of an app to enable citizens to get together to implement local actions towards the SDGs. WeAppHeroes was launched at the UN Habitat III on October 2016. This new app creates a real-time call-to-action for users to reach out for assistance in the implementation of local sustainability action and immediately get help from others located nearby. Its beta version is now been implemented in collaboration with universities and partners in Rio de Janeiro, counting with the support of the Atados network and its 800 affiliated civil society organizations, as well as in Italy, USA and Ecuador. Developed in a collaborative fashion, with no costs for UNDP, WeAppHeroes has the potential to revolutionize citizen action for the SDGs and will be a powerful tool for UNDP Country Offices worldwide. Watch the promo video.



Music to Advance the SDGs: The RIO+ Centre is developing a pilot project to translate the SDG messages into music, reaching out to millions of citizens. The initiative supported the formation of a network of musicians and artists representing over 90 bands and groups from Rio's metropolitan region, who are now producing new musical content that brings the SDGs closer to ordinary citizens. The RIO+ pilot kicked off in Belford Roxo, once the most dangerous city on Earth, and is evolving to encompass musicians from the suburbs of the large metropolis of the Global South, starting with the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. Besides producing new and popular songs on the SDGs, the projects aims at developing a cost-effective collaboration model for UNDP Country Offices on mainstreaming SDG visibility and giving power to voices from the suburbs of major cities, normally excluded from the SDG implementation processes. [Watch the promo video.](#)

Mobilizing Big Data for SDG Impact:

The RIO+ Centre has supported the development of a microsimulation to forecast the impact of investments in social protection (SDG#1) on tuberculosis (SDG#3), in collaboration with the Stanford University and Brazil's Fiocruz (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz). A powerful tool for harnessing big data for SDG implementation, this innovative work can provide a 15-year forecast of the relationship between conditional cash transfers and tuberculosis rates of subpopulations. It demonstrates the multidimensional impacts of poverty reduction interventions and interlinkages across the SDGs, offering a useful instrument for policy makers (in the Global South) to make clearer and smarter decisions on SDG investments.

Music to advance the
#SDGS



ScenaRIO: Sustainability
in Action

The RIO+ Centre was instrumental to giving a deeper social meaning to a market-driven project. WeAppHeroes was initially conceived as a tool to crowdsource spontaneous acts of kindness, and was turned into a means to address and increase awareness on the SDGs through geolocalized everyday action. Working with the UNDP global hub in Rio de Janeiro allowed us to produce and launch WeAppHeroes, a global tool for localizing the SDGs that will revolutionize citizen action for sustainable development in the years to come.

Valentina Hernandez, CEO of Sunscious Limited (United Kingdom and Italy)

RIO+ IMPACT IN THE MEDIA

As one of our goals is to raise awareness and attract civil society's attention to achieving sustainable development and the SDGs, the RIO+ Centre's work has focused largely on bringing the issues to the general public. As a result, the RIO+ Centre has received major coverage in the news and other media throughout 2015 and 2016. **Traditional media (print and TV) was a key ally to strengthen outreach and advocacy, allowing the RIO+ Centre to reach out to influential stakeholders as well as to the general public.** In 2015-2016, the RIO+ Centre's TV presence reached out to almost 70 million viewers in Brazil, with a focus on the urgency of shifting the development paradigm towards sustainable development and having citizens as active players for the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The RIO+ Centre has also strengthened its social media presence, focusing on crowdsourcing audiovisual content generation with the support of youth leaders and grassroots sustainable development advocates. This section presents some key articles, interviews and TV programmes that have led to a major increase in the RIO+ Centre's visibility and the impact of its work as a UNDP Global Policy Centre.



TV Globo, Brazil's top TV network, featured the RIO+ Centre in its daily morning show, "Programa Bom Dia Brasil", with a programme on how technology can help industries and farmers to reduce water consumption. It was broadcasted nationally on 29 January 2015, and also on [TV Globo's YouTube](#).

Other examples of the RIO+ impact in Brazil's leading media organization are available [here](#) (Bom Dia Rio news show) and [here](#) (RJ TV news show). TV Globo reaches 99.9% of Brazil's households, reaching up to 200 million people. Average viewership: 21.3 million people.



Globo News, Brazil's leading cable TV network has featured the RIO+ Centre, with a focus on the documentary "Scenario: Sustainability in Action". Globo News is considered to be the most influential news network in relation to decision makers in Brazil. As an example, the national news show Jornal das 10 has featured the RIO+ Centre in [this programme](#).



The Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), the largest TV network of the island nation of Mauritius, was very active in its coverage of the RIO+ Centre's support to the SDG implementation in the country. A key programme on the SDGs was aired on October 2016 in the national news show ([watch it here](#)). The impact of the TV programme has also influenced various other news platforms to showcase our contributions to the national policy debate, including the [Defi Media Group](#), [Lexpress](#), and [The Elephant](#).



Cabo Verde's most influential daily news show "**Jornal da Noite**" [produced a comprehensive coverage](#) of the RIO+ Centre's work to support SDG implementation in the Portuguese-speaking nation in Africa. The major impact of the TV programme has unleashed a positive wave of SDG-related news in various platforms and newspapers, including: [Agência Lusa](#); [A Semana](#); [Panapress](#); [Agência Cabo-verdiana de Notícias](#); and [OceanPress](#).



TV Brasil, the main public network in the country has featured the RIO+ Centre in its national news show Repórter Brasil ([watch it here](#)) as well as in the Rio de Janeiro local news show Repórter Rio ([here](#)). The RIO+ Centre's deputy director Layla Saad has also participated in the influential talk show [Sem Censura](#), a 90-minute TV programme broadcasted nationally.



Band TV, a major commercial network in the country, produced extensive programmes on the RIO+ Centre, focusing on its youth mobilization efforts in the context of the Agenda 2030 implementation. For example, the national news show Jornal da Band has played a major role in advancing the RIO+ Centre's presence and influence in the sustainable development policy agenda ([watch it here](#)). The Rio de Janeiro local news show Jornal do Rio also featured RIO+ Centre in this [programme](#).



Futura Channel (Canal Futura) programme on water scarcity in the world featuring the RIO+ Centre deputy director Layla Saad. The interview was first broadcasted in the "Conexão Futura" programme, and subsequently reproduced in other programmes and also on YouTube ([watch it here](#)). Average viewership: 19 million people.



BandNews TV featured RIO+ Centre's perspectives on the Post-2015 Agenda various times in 2015 and also repeated the programme twice in the first semester of 2016. The interview was first broadcasted in the "Capital Natural" programme and is also available on YouTube. Average viewership: 16.9 million. [Watch it here](#) (Part #1 of the programme) and [here](#) (Part #2)

PRINTED MEDIA & ONLINE NEWS PLATFORMS



Vértice Magazine, published by the Regional Engineering Council of Minas Gerais (CREA-MG), featured an interview with the director of the RIO+ Centre, explaining that businesses are increasingly changing practices as sustainability becomes a key factor in shaping consumer's preferences. Vértice is distributed to over 150,000 engineering professionals and business leaders, and is also available online [here](#).



Brazil's most influential network of social investors, **GIFE (Grupo de Institutos, Fundações e Empresas)** featured a comprehensive interview with the director of the RIO+ Centre, Romulo Paes de Sousa, on citizen action for the realization of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Sao Paulo-based GIFE represents 129 associated institutes, foundations and companies that invest around USD 1 billion per year in social responsibility projects. Read the full interview [here](#).



All Africa News, Africa's largest platform, has reported on the RIO+ Centre's support to SDG implementation in Mauritius, including [this article](#).



BBC Brasil has contributed to a wide dissemination of the RIO+ Centre's work vis-à-vis key decision makers. For instance, the news platform has given extensive coverage of a RIO+ Centre supported documentary in [this news article](#).



Jornal O Globo featured a long interview by the deputy director of the RIO+ Centre, Romulo Paes de Sousa, on "Companies must invest in technology to use water more efficiently". O Globo is Rio de

Janeiro's largest newspaper and one of the most influential daily newspapers of Brazil, with a readership of over 300,000 (print) and almost 1.8 million daily website visits. Read the interview [here](#). O Globo newspaper has given privileged space to the RIO+ Centre in various other articles, including a major coverage on resilience and sustainable development that was [featured in a 12-page special section](#), one of the most comprehensive and longest articles ever published by the influential newspaper.



Agência Brasil, the country's public news platform, is a key ally in RIO+ Centre's media outreach efforts. A major example of their articles covering our work include an English language headline "[Documentary Shows Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Rio](#)" published in August 2016.



IstoÉ, a major magazine with an average readership of 320,000 people, featured the RIO+ Centre in August 2016, with an [article on sustainable entrepreneurship](#).

Catraca Livre, Brazil's leading alternative and youth-related news platform, counting with over 7 million very active followers on social media tools. Read article [here](#).

Some other examples of magazines and other newspapers and blogs that featured the RIO+ Centre in 2015-2016 include the following:

Jornal O Dia: "[UN produces film to showcase sustainable businesses](#)"

Jornal do Brasil: "[Documentary produced by the UN focuses on sustainable entrepreneurship](#)"

Revista Ecoturismo: "For the first in history, the sustainable development concept can be materialized in goals, targets and indicators to all countries". Read [here](#).

Cairo + 20 Blog: "Inequality was an issue that was ignored in

the Millennium Development Goals, but finally incorporated into the Post-2015 Development Agenda". Read [here](#).



Africa 21 Online:

["African ministers recommend partnership with Brazil on social protection policies"](#)



RADIO

"A Voz do Brasil" featuring the RIO+ Centre in the [special programme](#) to celebrate the 12th anniversary of the Bolsa Familia cash transfer programme. Average viewership: 11.4 million.



RIO+ WEBSITE

Number of website views (2015 and 2016): 67,782



RIO+ Centre is honoured in the 2016 Rio Sustainability Award for keeping alive the commitments made at the sustainable development conferences held in Rio 1992 & 2012



“The existence of the RIO+ Centre in the city of Rio de Janeiro represents the recognition of Rio’s global leadership in the consolidation of sustainable development as a key part of the United Nations’ agenda and of humanity. The historic Rio conferences of 1992 and 2012 consolidated Rio de Janeiro as a world power for sustainable development, laying down the foundations for the new 2030 Agenda. The RIO + Centre’s role in the UNDP global structure represents not only Rio and Brazil’s historic commitment to the theme of sustainable development, but also their capacity and interest to increasingly work with the UN and the international community so as the implementation of the Rio-born 2030 Agenda can become a reality worldwide.

Haroldo Mattos de Lemos, President of the Business Council of Environment and Sustainability of the Commercial Association of Rio de Janeiro, President of the Technical Council of the Brazilian National Standards Organization (ISO-ABNT) and Former Deputy Assistant Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

**RIO+ IMPACT
IN THE MEDIA**
UN BRAZIL NEWS
PORTAL & WEBSITE

UN Brazil website and news portal distributes content to thousands of civil society organizations and media outlets. With over 5.8 million views per year, the UN Brazil news portal has one of the largest website traffics of all UN websites worldwide. It is also a major reference for decision makers and key players in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This section showcases a very strong and continuous engagement of the RIO+ Centre in keeping alive the commitments to the SDGs in both ideas and action.



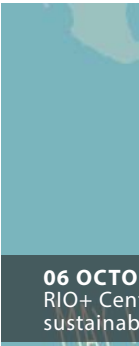
17 OCTOBER 2016
App developed by RIO+ Centre's partner will incentivize solidary economy



11 OCTOBER 2016
With RIO+ Centre's support, Museu do Amanhã organizes event on sustainable food and alimentation



11 OCTOBER 2016
RIO+ Centre: Climate Change must be a target to the government, citizens



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20 OCTOBER 2016
Musicians from Rio's metropolitan region to deliver show at UN event



20 SEPTEMBER 2016
UN launches documentary in Rio de Janeiro



15 SEPTEMBER 2016
Students organize community garden in Belford Roxo



11 NOVEMBER 2016
Youth leaders discuss education for sustainable development in event in Rio



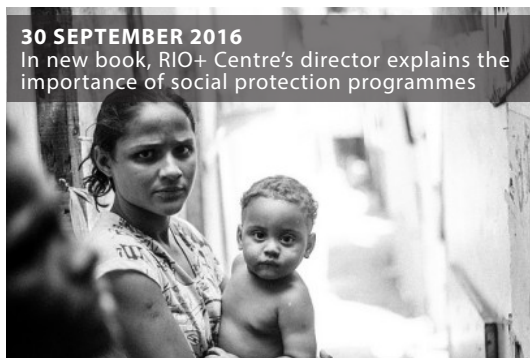
20 OCTOBER 2016
UNDP Centre in Rio promotes debate on social protection for migrant workers



20 OCTOBER 2016
Mauritius invests half of government budget on social protection, health and education



11 NOVEMBER 2016
Centre's app will promote volunteerism for sustainable development action at local level



30 SEPTEMBER 2016
In new book, RIO+ Centre's director explains the importance of social protection programmes



22 OCTOBER 2016
Documentary on sustainable entrepreneurship is launched in Rio



30 AUGUST 2016
Book showcases Brazil's extreme poverty eradication policies



26 AUGUST 2016
Documentary discusses resilience of Baía de Guanabara after the Olympic Games



22 AUGUST 2016
Rio students become UN volunteer journalists during the Olympic Games



27 JULY 2016
UNDP Centre showcases life stories of Rio's residents



15 JULY 2016
Cities are key to achieving the SDGs



12 JULY 2016
UNDP Centre supports event on sustainability in Rio



22 JUNE 2016
First RIO+ Centre's global report is launched today in Africa



17 JUNE 2016
RIO+ Centre and AIESEC organizes event on SDGs for youth leaders



14 JUNE 2016
RIO+ Centre is honoured in Rio Sustainability Award



7 JULY
RIO+ Centre event

27 APRIL 2016
RIO+ Centre: Project offers sustainable entrepreneurship training in Rio



25 APRIL 2016
UN and IBGE to hold joint press conference in Brasilia



23 MARCH 2016
UN organizes event in Rio on social protection and tuberculosis



5 JULY 2016
UNDP Centre organizes workshop on the SDGs for musicians in the Baixada region



4 JULY 2016
UNDP Centre recruits students to participate in youth journalist programme during the Olympic Games



30 JUNE 2016
UNDP Centre hosts workshop on the SDGs for musicians



1 JUNE 2016
UNDP Centre promotes SDGs with TEDx event in Rio



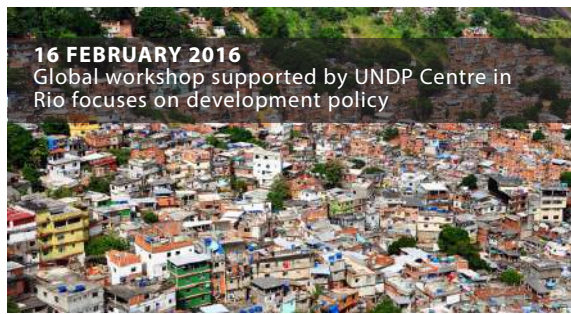
1 JUNE 2016
RIO+ Centre and TEDx Rio celebrate partnership to advance the SDGs



30 MAY 2016
UN: The SDGs are a call to action for this generation



9 MARCH 2016
UNDP Centre hosts public seminar with influential US researcher in Rio



16 FEBRUARY 2016
Global workshop supported by UNDP Centre in Rio focuses on development policy



13 FEBRUARY 2016 With the support of Brazilian youth, UNDP Centre produces stories to inspire sustainable development



12 JANUARY 2016
RIO+ Centre: Sustainability is a good deal



30 DECEMBER 2015 RIO+ Centre analyses the future of the Paris Climate Change Agreement



29 DECEMBER 2015 UN Centre in Rio launches space for youth mobilization for sustainable development



14 JULY 2015 Addis Ababa: Highlights from the Financing Conference



18 JUNE 2015 RIO+ Centre presents series of events to promote the Sustainable Development Goals



29 MAY 2015 RIO+ Centre will focus on social protection, cities, forests, financing and Post-2015 goals



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7 MAY 2015 Seminar on the 70th anniversary of the UN focuses on fighting inequality in the Post-2015 Agenda



23 APRIL 2015 In Ethiopia, Brazil and the UN discuss social protection for Africa's inclusive growth



10 APRIL 2015 Government of Brazil and African countries meet to discuss progress in social protection agenda



17 DECEMBER 2015 RIO+ Centre launches inspiring dialogues on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



24 NOVEMBER 2015 RIO+ Centre discusses the importance of the Climate Change Conference for the future of humanity



6 AUGUST 2015 RIO+ Centre promotes online consultation with civil society on citizen participation



15 MAY 2015 RIO+ Centre: Sustainable Development Goals can end the North-South divisions



15 MAY 2015 RIO+ Centre: Ministerial meeting in Ethiopia endorses recommendations on social protection in Africa



14 MAY 2015 RIO+ Centre discusses the Sustainable Development Goals in New York



7 APRIL 2015 At UN event, Africa and Brazil unite for progress in social protection agenda

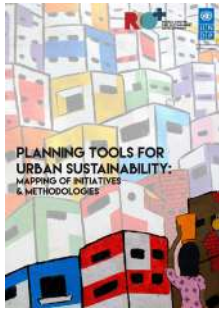


17 MARCH 2015 RIO+ Centre and Brazil discuss social protection in Africa



2 FEBRUARY 2015 RIO+ Centre analyses Brazil's role in the Post-2015 Agenda

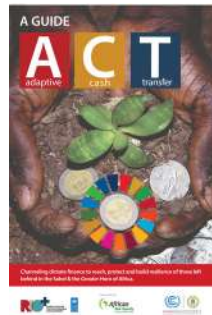
RIO+ Publications & Knowledge Products



FORTHCOMING (January 2017): Tools to Advance Sustainable Development in Cities

LAURA HILDEBRANDT

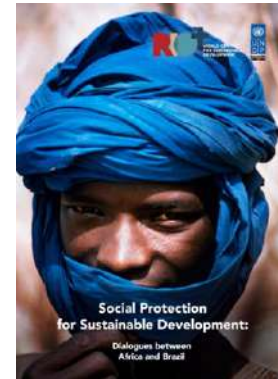
The RIO+ Centre is developing a global mapping of the main tools and approaches being used to advance sustainable development in cities. Our mapping has identified over 50 innovative tools developed by international organizations, the private sector, city networks, and municipal governments around the world. It explores the range of existing options for integrated planning of sustainable urban development and the localization of the SDGs.



FORTHCOMING (December 2016) Methodological Guide to Designing an Adaptive Cash Transfer (ACT)

AMATH PATH SENE, ROSALY BYRD

The objective of the Methodological is to guide governments and partners in designing a CT that incorporates environmental and climate to build resilience of the most vulnerable populations to climate change and natural disasters.



Social Protection for Sustainable Development (SP4SD)

EDITORS: LEISA PERCH, LAYLA SAAD, LAURA JUNGMAN

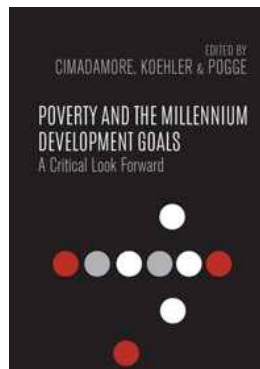
As an effort to support SDG implementation and to bring an up-to-date analysis of creative social policies blossoming across the African continent, the RIO+ Centre and the [UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa](#) produced the first RIO+ global report, focusing on social protection as a key ally to pursuing sustainable development.



Critical Dictionary: Social Assistance Policy in Brazil

ORGANIZERS: ROSA M. CASTILHOS FRNANDES AND ALINE HELLMANN

Romulo Paes de Sousa (RIO+ Centre) contributed two chapters in this book published by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, explaining the evolution of the concept and practice of social protection and cash transfers.



Going beyond the Eradication of Extreme Poverty in Brazil: the Case for Sustainable Development Goals

RÔMULO PAES DE SOUSA
in POVERTY & THE MDGS: A CRITICAL LOOK FORWARD

An examination of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this piece looks at the case of poverty in Brazil making the argument of why the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a new development agenda are needed.



2015: The Make or Break Year for a Sustainable Future

MARCIO PONTUAL

This working paper recaps the key events related to the SDGs, Financing for Development, and Climate Change, in their respective fora, and briefly lists the main issues and challenges ahead of the negotiators in 2015.



Making climate-smart also people-smart

LEISA PERCH

Published in the Great Insights magazine, this article analyzes gender and climate-smart agriculture in Southern Africa to highlight the importance of ensuring integration of social aspects, in particular gender equality, in climate-smart agriculture.



Brazil and the Post-2015 Agenda

LAYLA SAAD

This working paper highlights the main principles underpinning the government of Brazil's position in the post 2015/SDG intergovernmental negotiations with the aim of highlighting a narrative of a key player in the global South where the sustainable development agenda holds enormous potential.



A Haunting Shadow: Post-2015 Food Security and Nutrition

RÔMULO PAES DE SOUSA & MARCIO PONTUAL

Food security and nutrition are complex issues that impact rich and poor countries. This brief explains how the subject is likely to be tackled in the Post -2015 Development Agenda and highlights the economic nexus vital to its implementation.



Gender in the CSA Discourse: Making the case for gender-smartness

LEISA PERCH & ROSALY BYRD
Contributions from HLAMI NGWENYA
& ALINESS MUMBA

This working paper analyzes and assesses the South African experience in Gender and Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and its similarities and differences with other global experiences, shedding light on the requirements of a truly inclusive and sustainable development agenda.



Millennium Development Goals and the Implementation of Public Policies in Latin America

in Spanish
RÓMULO PAES DE SOUSA (RIO+ CENTRE) &
DIANA ALARCÓN (UN DESA)

The objective of this study was to make a review of the progress made in the Latin American countries towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the policies that guided progress.



Innovating business and investment for climate-resilient sustainable development

AMATH PATHE SENE
for OUTREACH MAGAZINE

This article examines sustainable development investments through a climate change lens, emphasizing the importance of investments in climate-resilient sustainable development.



Understanding the Rising Powers' Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

MARCIO PONTUAL &
JENNIFER CONSTANTINE

Joint publication with the INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, UK

The brief sheds a light on the role of rising powers (BRICS) in the process of drafting the Post-2015 Agenda. The brief focuses on Brazil and China, analyzing the challenges ahead related to the Development Agenda, and listing recommendations.



ScenaRIO: Sustainability in Action

EDITORS: FRANCISCO FILHO,
MICHELLE ELSAESSER & BRENDA HADA

Joint production with the National School of Insurance in Rio de Janeiro

The 25-minute documentary shows the creativity of citizens from Rio de Janeiro in action towards the sustainable development aiming to inspire others among the 193 Member States of United Nations. ScenaRIO is the result of the Sustainable Development Semester Project.



Sustainable Youth Video Series

COORDINATOR: RIO+ OPEN WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH MOBILIZATION FOR THE SDGs

Series of interviews with youth leaders and activists on the implementation of the SDGs.



The RIO+ Centre produced a series of UNDP Policy Briefs providing continued support to the corporate strategy on jobs and livelihoods by defining and capturing UNDP's position on key sustainable development issues in time for the launch of SDGs. The RIO+ Centred policy briefs were provided to all UNDP Resident Representatives in 166 countries. These policy briefs covered the issues of inclusive and sustainable growth, inequality, jobs and livelihoods, social protection for sustainable development, financing options for sustainable development, water governance and oceans, biodiversity and ecosystems, forest and land degradation, and extractive industries for sustainable human development.



**In 2015-2016,
RIO+ Centre has contributed and reviewed
several UNDP corporate products:**



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

- **RIO+ Centre is co-leading on the UNDP Agricultural Commodities Guidance note** with UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa and the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS). This guidance note presents UNDP's objectives to support countries in developing their agricultural commodity sectors in a sustainable manner, and articulates UNDP's experience in this arena, while also providing guidance for global and country level policies, programming, and partnerships. The intended audience of this note is UNDP policy advisors and country offices.

- **RIO+ contributed to the designing of UNDP's Urbanization Strategy**, which outlines UNDP's response to the rapid urbanization of the developing world and its consequences for sustainable development. It provides an integrated approach across sectors and areas to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in cities and urban areas. This strategy was launched during Habitat III on October 2016 in Quito.



- **The RIO+ Centre was involved in the designing of the UNDP financing platform** which was launched in a beta version on UNDP's website. This platform describes solutions to generate resources, realign expenditures, avoid future resource needs, and enhance delivery of the SDGs; links tools, case studies and e-learning with financing solutions; and identifies knowledge gaps and niches for UNDP to work on.
- **RIO+ Centre has also supported UNDP BPPS Country Office Afghanistan** on a formulation of a proposal on creating job opportunities for women and men in Kabul and five pilot provinces for potential migrants and returnees in Afghanistan.

- **RIO+ Centre contributed to the reviewing of the UNDP workbook on Biodiversity Finance**, providing more insights on the private sector's involvement and climate finance. This workbook aims to guide practitioners and countries on how to measure their current biodiversity expenditures, assess their financial needs in the medium term, and identify the most suitable finance solutions to bridge their national needs.

**WORLD CENTRE
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

RIO+ CENTRE

Focus on inspiring and informing policies and practices that lead to greater social, environmental and economic justice.

**OSLO
GOVERNANCE
CENTER** OGC

Focus on democratic governance and peacebuilding in crisis, conflict and transitional contexts, and on measuring governance, including in the context of SDG16.

**SEOUL POLICY CENTRE FOR POLICY
DEVELOPMENT** UNSPC

Focus on connecting Korea with the wider UNDP network and enhance the Korea-UNDP partnership on strategic development issues globally.

**GLOBAL CENTRE
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE
EXCELLENCE** GCPSE

Focus on new thinking and action on what works in running a successful public service under 21st century conditions.

**GLOBAL POLICY CENTRE ON RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS &
DESERTIFICATION IN NAIROBI** GC-REAL

Focus on the interface between livelihoods and jobs on the one hand, and ecosystem resilience on the other.

**ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
PRIVATE SECTOR IN DEVELOPMENT** IICPSD

Focus on the role of private sector and foundations to support the 2030 Agenda.

**UNDP
GLOBAL
POLICY
CENTRES+**

Connecting the 'local' to the 'global'

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