THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS
Why should you listen to me?

- Más sabe diablo por viejo que por diablo
My connections with social development

- First worked with the Division in 1966
- Joined the Secretariat in 1971
- Took a two year secondment to UNDP
- Was in the Division from 1976-1979
- Observed the Division as a member of the Programme Planning and Coordination Office
- Joined the “Centre” in 1987 and observed it until retirement in 1997
- Have done evaluations and consulting with the UN since then
Three periods of social development

- Period One (1945-1969)
- Period Three (1996-2014)
Period I. To the Declaration

- From the Charter to the Declaration
- Combination of ends and means
- Three parts (Principles, objectives, means and methods)
  - Social Planning
  - Social Research
  - Participation
  - Policies to enjoy human rights
  - Economic growth
  - General and complete disarmament

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Period II. To the World Summit

- Social Survey
- Popular participation
- Rural development
- Technical cooperation
- Move to Vienna
- Development Decades
- Return to New York
- The Summit
The UN in 1975

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1929 (LVIII). Popular participation and its practical implications for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development which, among other things, calls for the adoption of measures to ensure effective participation, as appropriate, of all elements of society in the preparation and execution of national plans and programmes of social and economic development,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1746 (LIV) of 16 May 1973 on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes, in which the Council specifically recommended to Governments that appropriate measures should be taken at all levels to ensure more active participation by the entire population, including the labour force, in the production, preparation and execution of economic and social development policies and programmes,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade which calls for qualitative and structural changes in society and for the promotion of active support and integration of all segments of the population in achieving the objectives of the Decade,
B. Principles and goals
25. We, heads of State and Government are committed to a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development that is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation, and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people. Accordingly, we will give the highest priority in national, regional and international policies and actions to the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation by all.
WSSD – Ten Commitments

1. creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development
2. eradicating poverty in the world
3. promoting the goal of full employment
4. promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just
5. promoting full respect for human dignity and to achieving equality and equity between women and men
6. promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education
7. accelerating the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries
8. when structural adjustment programmes are agreed to they include social development goals
9. increasing significantly and/or utilizing more efficiently the resources allocated to social development
10. an improved and strengthened framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development
World Summit for Social Development

- Four elements
- No time horizon
- No targets
- Mostly national actions
- Commission mandated to review and appraise
Period III. From 1995 to Now

- 2000: 24th Special Session of the General Assembly
- 2000: Millennium Declaration
  - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2005: 10 Year review
- 2010: 15 Year review
- 2014: MDG Report
Millennium Development Goals

- Time horizon: To 2015, with targets
- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2. Achieve universal primary education
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4. Reduce child mortality
- 5. Improve maternal health
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development
Commission foci during the period

- Commission has focused on elements of the Programme of Action rather than broader issues
- Focus on means was only in 1999, 2001-2004
Old issues, new priorities

- Measuring social progress
- Research on social development as means and its application
- Inequality
- Climate change
- Conflict
- Participation
Measuring Social Progress

- Human Development Index
- MDG Indices
- Social Progress Index
- Something new?
Research on social development

- UNRISD research on key issues
- DPSD research
- WIDER and other UN bodies
- Academic research
- How to use it?
Inequality

- Key issue in poverty
- Increasing
- Affects conflict
- How to address it?
Climate change

- Environment has been an issue for social development since the beginning
- Critical issue today
- Major unrecognized social dimension
- Major human behaviour change needed
- How to get this?
Conflict within States

- Increasing as indicated by refugee populations
- And mortality
- Identity politics
- What can be done to resolve conflicts?
Popular participation

- Classic type of social development means
- Part of all intergovernmental documents
- Has only begun to be studied in the last few years
- How does it apply to solving post-2015 priorities

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17 July 2014
Where Next?

- Post-2015
- 17 Goals
- Over 100 indicators
- Undefined (so far) means
- Role of the Commission for Social Development

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