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Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
International Affairs Division

Embedding the Environment in Sustainable Development Goals

Ambassador Franz Perrez

GEN Event, 2 September 2013



Goals for a Post-2015 Agenda

„Our efforts to defeat poverty and pursue sustainable development will be in vain if environmental degradation and natural resource depletion continue unabated.

Kofi Annan, *In Larger Freedom*, 2005

Sustainable Development Goals
as the solution?!

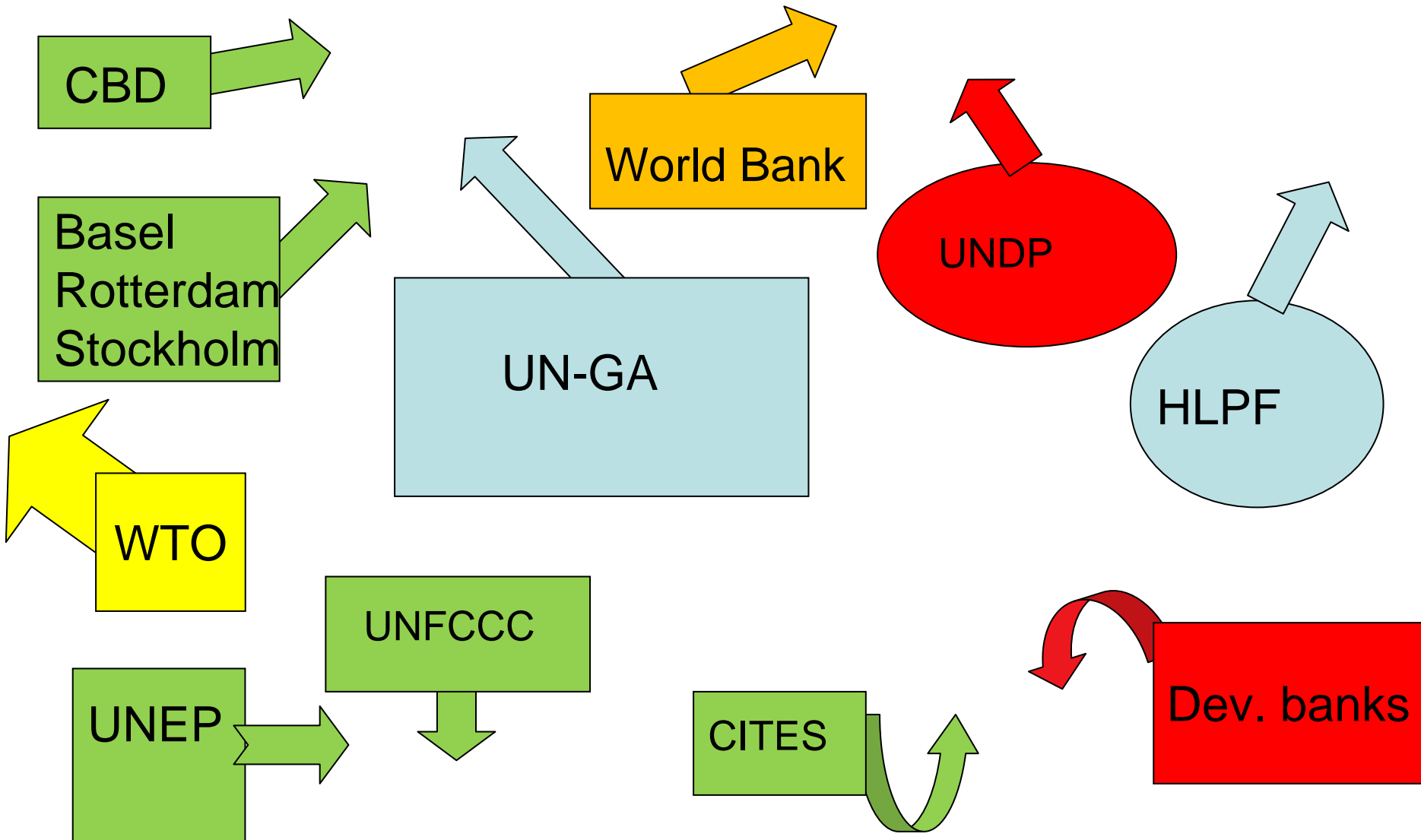


Rio+20 Outcome (especially para 246)

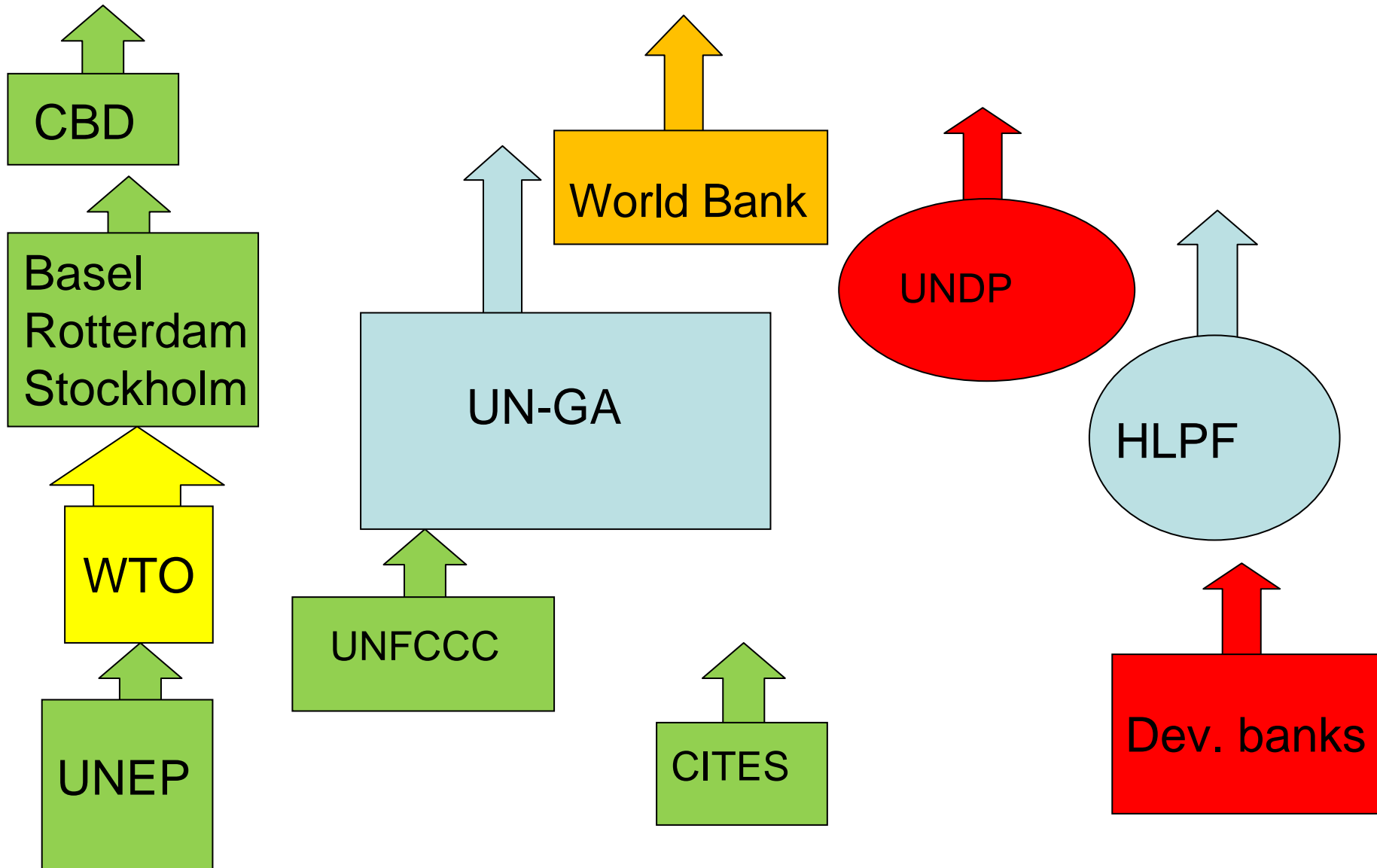
- [...] The goals should address and **incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development** and their interlinkages. [...]
- [...] We further recognize the importance and utility of a set of sustainable development goals [...] which [...] **build upon commitments already made**, and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the present outcome document. [...]



Today's Global Sustainability Regime



The Global Sustainability Regime with SDGs





UNEP's Expert Workshop with MEAs on Embedding the Environment in SDGs

Clear outcome:

- UNEP has to play an important role as „voice of the environment“ and of the MEAs in the SDG process.
- Work so far has helped to clarify conceptual questions, it should now focus on concrete elements.



Embedding the Environment in SDGs

Conceptual findings so far:

- Integration of the environmental dimension in SDGs:
 1. Separate goal(s) for the environment
 2. Mainstreaming (composite goals)
 3. Environmental targets under each goal
 - UNEP Paper presents an integrated approach, combining approach 2&3
 - Integrated goals
 - Integrated and non-integrated targets
- Internationally agreed environmental goals could provide input for environmental targets as well as integrated targets.**



Global Environmental Goals



Air pollution and air quality



Biodiversity



Chemicals and waste



Climate change



Energy



Environmental governance



Forests



Freshwater



Land



Oceans and seas



The development of Global Environmental Goals

- The president of Switzerland suggested at the GMEF 2006 that UNEP should develop GEGs.
- UNEP developed a compilation of existing internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives.
- Compilation was reviewed by a group of independent experts, senior government officials in the Montevideo Programme IV, MEA secretariats, and an open-ended meeting with government representatives.
=> <http://geg.informea.org/>
- The GMEF called GEO-5 to be more policy relevant and to assess progress in relation to internat. agreed goals.
=> GEO-5 was using GEGs



Examples how to become concrete

- E.g. Chemicals and Waste:
 - 2020 target as new SDG?
Or Chemicals&Waste as target under Sustainable Consumption and Production?
 - Development of concrete indicators (amount of transboundary movement of hazardous waste to places where sound management can be ensured; amount of mercury used in ASGM; ...)
- E.g. Biodiversity:
 - How use Aichi targets to formulate a Biodiversity SDG / Biodiversity targets / indicators
 - Development of concrete wording.



Next Steps

- UNEP should take the lead, involving other actors such as MEAsNGOs and academia, by:
 - Identify critical environmental issues crucial for achieving sustainable development (including drivers of environmental degradation)
 - Identify existing environmental goals and targets that are specifically relevant for SDGs
 - Formulation of building blocks – in the form of e.g. goals or targets – to be integrated in SDGs
- UNEP should:
 - Engage with countries
 - Engage in process, including through side events, briefings, etc.