The Political Process
Tuesday October 11th, 1045-1215

Introductory Remarks
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I- Overview

• The international setting - 1992 vs 2012:
  1- “The fall of the Berlin Wall vs the fall of Wall Street.”
  2- Optimism & international cooperation vs Pessimism & lack of trust.
  3- Threats to the leading economies + surge of emerging economies.
II- Key Challenges

1- Multiple international crises:
   a-Financial crisis.
   b-Food crisis.
   c-Natural Catastrophes.

2- Evolving Regional Setting:
   a-Arab spring: Transition + sensitivity.
   b-Accountability (public opinion/expectations).
III- What are the negotiations about?

1-Implementing previous commitments & agreed outcomes (in order to move on solid ground or avoid common responsibility?):
   b-Bali.  c-Copenhagen + Cancun.  d-Durban?
   e-Rio+20?

2-Moving the goal posts (in order to broaden participation or lock-in competitive advantages?):
   b-Bali.  c-Copenhagen + Cancun.  d-Durban?
   e-Rio+20?
IV- Prospects for Durban & Rio+20

1-Do these objectives really have to be at the expense of each other?
2-Are preconditions the right answer to the crisis of confidence?
3-Is it possible to commit ALL Parties to concrete actions, in ALL the fields of the Convention?
4-Can (or rather should) we aim at a “Legally Binding Outcome” before (instead of) fulfilling the current commitments?
5-What binds whom?
V- Conclusions

1- Implementation of commitments in the region (in developing countries) should address pressing problems (water scarcity/food production, etc).

2- It should not arrest development opportunities.

3- It should not affect regional competitive advantages (energy/capital/transportation routes).

4- It will have repercussions. Therefore it should be consistent with public expectations.
Thank you