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Why is sustainable development failing? Try asking those who feel the fallout. Two decades after the groundbreaking earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders will gather in June for the sequel: Rio+20.

Establishing a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), bringing together the interests of fragile communities and fragile environments, will be on the table.

Food insecurity is a symptom of both dire poverty and overstretched ecosystems, and will doubtless be central. But how will fresh targets succeed in stemming hunger where sustainable development efforts – not least the millennium development goals (MDGs) – have hitherto failed?

Along with 21 UN experts, I have called for Rio+20 to ground global commitments in human rights, and for a double accountability mechanism to be put in place to ensure countries are held responsible for their actions. Human rights and accountability are the hallmarks of the "best practices" we have, locally and globally, for achieving genuinely inclusive, pro-poor and environmentally sensitive outcomes. (...)

The article:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/mar/27/human-rights-accountability-rio-summit?intcmp=122>

More about:

<http://www.srfood.org/index.php/en/component/content/article/1-latest-news/2154-rio20-no-global-goals-without-accountability-an-open-appeal-from-over-20-un-experts>

Rio+20 Conference website:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.html>