

## **Brief on MDGs and Post-2015**

### **I. Objectives**

- Provide an update on the post-2015 development agenda and process and, as appropriate, mobilize interest in and support for the UNDG project on post-2015;
- Provide an update on MDG achievement and the MAF, highlighting lessons learned and, as appropriate, mobilize interest in and support for MDG acceleration and for building the evidence base on MDGs through national planning reporting;
- Stress UNDP's key messages:
  - o We have to complete what we started: achieving the MDGs remains our foremost responsibility and task;
  - o Our experience with the MDGs has given us vital information on how any successor framework could be shaped;
  - o In order to succeed in building a clear, coherent and inspiring post-2015 development agenda, wide and open consultations will be necessary, which UNDP and other relevant agencies are supporting through the UNDG project that will seek to conduct the largest consultation exercise ever held in a multilateral process;
  - o UNDP is working closely with DESA and the rest of the UN system to support the Open Working Group set up by the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as with the High-Level Panel nominated by the Secretary General on the post-2015 development agenda.
  - o Our objective is to help Member States arrive at a unified set of concise, clear and measurable development goals that keep poverty reduction at their core, and at the same time recognize and address broader sustainable development challenges.

### **II. Key information relevant to the objectives**

There is an increasing demand for UNDP's leadership and engagement on the debates and preparatory work leading to the post-2015 framework. At the same time, helping nations in their efforts to achieve the MDGs remains our top priority, not least through offering support with the MDG Acceleration Framework, introduced in 2010 and now being applied in over 40 countries.

Together with the UN's Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), UNDP is co-chairing the UN post-2015 Task Team (UNTT) that started activities in January 2012. The UNTT delivered a report to the Secretary-General (SG) in June 2012 in anticipation of the establishment of the High-Level Panel. It is working under transparent and inclusive parameters with opportunities for Member States to contribute and be informed of progress through informal briefings. The work of the UNTT will continue as it will service, on a demand basis, the new intergovernmental 'open working group' on the SDGs and the High-Level Panel. The UNTT also created three groups to service the OWG and the SG: (i) a Technical Support Team on SDGs (ii) a Working Group on Global Partnership for Development (iii) and a Working Group on Monitoring and Target Setting.

UNDP has also put in place a project "Planning for Post-2015: The Future we Want", under a UN Development Group umbrella (UNDG), to help realise the SG's vision that the discussions about the post-2015 agenda be open and inclusive in line with the UN's principles. The project entails: (i) supporting a large number (up to 100) of national dialogues on post-2015; (ii) 11 thematic meetings on issues selected by the UNDG<sup>1</sup>, and (iii) an ambitious social media platform for outreach to all citizens and concerned stakeholders. Regional UN Commissions will also organize specific events on the post-2015 agenda.

The first report on the preliminary results of these consultations, "*The Global Conversation Begins*" was released on 21 March 2013. The main findings of the consultations so far are that three broad messages are coming from the consultations: (1) the MDGs as a framework remain relevant. The need to achieve MDGs is high on people's agenda. But at the same time (2), the message we are receiving is that the MDGS need to be improved, refined and deepened in the following ways: there is a call to integrate quality as well as quantity, for an increased focus on inequalities, and a data upgrade. Finally (3), the third big message is that there is a call for a more balanced, holistic and universal approach, and to better take into account into the future framework the issue of sustainability in all its dimensions. People are asking that job creation, governance, sustainability, security, public service delivery be integrated in the future agenda.

## **IV Background**

### **1. Institutional Process**

Three work-streams within the UN are currently involved in the post-2015 agenda: the High-Level Panel of 26<sup>2</sup> eminent persons nominated by the UN Secretary General, the Open Working Group of 30 members decided by the Rio Conference to set up Sustainable Development Goals and the UN task team, co-chaired by UNDP and UNDESA, comprising more than 60 UN agencies and international institutions. Discussions are on-going on institutional arrangements so as to provide a coherent approach for the post-2015 agenda.

#### **1.1 HLP**

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<sup>1</sup> Inequalities, health, education, growth and employment, environmental sustainability, governance, conflict and fragility, population dynamics, hunger, food and nutrition security, water and energy. More details p.13

<sup>2</sup> 27 members if including the SG's own Special Advisor, who is an ex-officio member of the panel.

- The Secretary-General (SG) appointed in July the members of the High-Level Panel (HLP) who are to advise him on the post-2015 development agenda ([more information/bios](#)):

Mr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono	President of Indonesia (co-chair)
Ms Ellen Johnson Sirleaf	President of Liberia (co-chair)
Mr David Cameron	Prime Minister of United Kingdom (co-chair)
Mr Fulbert Gero Amoussouga	Economic advisor of the President of Benin
Ms Izabella Teixeira	Minister for the Environment of Brazil
Mr Yingfan Wang	Member of the Secretary-General's MDG Advocacy Group, China
Ms Maria Angela Holguin	Foreign Minister of Colombia
Ms Gisela Alonso	President of the Agency of Environment of Cuba
Mr Jean-Michel Severino	Former Director General of the Development Agency of France
Mr Horst Köhler	Former IMF Managing Director and former President of Germany
Mr Naoto Kan	Former Prime Minister of Japan
Queen Rania Al Abdullah	Queen of Jordan
Ms Betty Maina	Chief Executive of the Association of Manufacturers of Kenya
Mr Abhijit Banerjee	Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics, from India
Mr Andris Piebalgs	European Commissioner for Development from Latvia
Ms Patricia Espinosa	Former Foreign Minister of Mexico
Mr Paul Polman	CEO of Unilever, from the Netherlands
Ms Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala	Finance Minister of Nigeria
Ms Elvira Nabiullina	Economic advisor to the Russian President
Ms Graça Machel	Member of The Elders, South Africa
Mr Sung-Hwan Kim	Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Korea

Ms Gunilla Carlsson	Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden
Ms Emilia Pires	Minister of Finance of Timor-Leste
Mr Kadir Topbaş	Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey
Mr John Podesta	Chair of the Center for American Progress, United States of America
Ms Tawakel Karman	Journalist, Peace Nobel Prize laureate, Yemen
Ms Amina J. Mohammed	Nigeria (ex officio, Special Adviser of the SG)

- The HLP held its first meeting on 25 September in the margins of the annual high-level debate of the United Nations General Assembly (GA) and its second meeting in London on 31 October - 2 November. While the first meeting in New York was introductory, the London meeting was focused on household poverty. The HLP met on 28 January – 1 February in Monrovia on economic development and issued a [communiqué](#). It met in Bali on 24-27 March in on partnerships and issued a [communiqué](#). The last meeting should take place in New York before the Panel submits a report to the SG at the end of May 2013.
- The terms of reference of the Panel include the consideration of the findings of the national and thematic consultations at regional and national levels, which are coordinated by the UNDG as part of the preparations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Different members of the HLP expressed their interest in engaging in the project activities and several will attend final global thematic meetings. For example, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia and HLP co-chair, participated to a thematic consultation event on conflict and fragility in Monrovia on 28 November 2012 and three HLP members participated in the high-level thematic meeting on inequalities on 18-19 February 2013.

## **1.2 Special Advisor on the Post-2015 Development Planning**

- In addition to the HLP, the SG has appointed Ms Amina J. Mohammed, who is a member of the HLP, as his Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning, in accordance with the priority accorded to this process in the SG’s Five Year Action The Advisor is part of a group of four Assistant Secretary Generals (also from UNDP, DESA and UN Women) which guide and coordinate the one, UN-led, Post-2015 Secretariat hosted by UNDP.

## **1.3 One Secretariat**

The One secretariat, headed by Rene Mauricio Valdes, is in charge of coordinating the different work streams, under the supervision of the 4 Assistant Secretary General (Amina Mohamed, the SG’s Special Adviser, Olav Kjørven, BDP Director, John Hendra, from UN Women and Shamshad Akhtar from DESA)

## **1.4 Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**

- At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, Member States agreed to establish an intergovernmental working group to design Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As stated in paragraph 246 of the Rio Declaration, the SDGs are to be “*coherent and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015*”.
- The group is co-chaired by Kenya and Hungary. It comprises 70 countries who share 30 seats through a balanced membership from different regions: African group 7 seats; Asia/Pacific 7 seats; GRULAC 6 seats; Western Europe and Other Group (WEOG) 5 seats; and Eastern Europe 5 seats. The Open working Group is expected to report on SDGs during the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in the summer of 2014. The members of the OWG are:

1. Algeria/Egypt/Morocco/Tunisia
2. Ghana
3. Benin
4. Kenya
5. United Republic of Tanzania
6. Congo
7. Zambia/ Zimbabwe
8. Nauru/Palau/Papua New Guinea
9. Bhutan/Thailand/Viet Nam
10. India/Pakistan/Sri Lanka
11. China/Kazakhstan/Indonesia
12. Cyprus/Singapore/United Arab Emirates
13. Bangladesh/Republic of Korea/Saudi Arabia
14. Iran (Islamic Republic of)/Japan/Nepal
15. Colombia/Guatemala
16. Bahamas/Barbados
17. Guyana/Haiti/Trinidad and Tobago
18. Mexico/Peru
19. Brazil/Nicaragua
20. Argentina/Bolivia (Plurinational State of)/Ecuador
21. Australia/Netherlands/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
22. Canada/Israel/United States of America
23. Denmark/Ireland/Norway
24. France/Germany/Switzerland
25. Italy/Spain/Turkey
26. Hungary
27. Belarus/Serbia
28. Bulgaria/Croatia
29. Montenegro/Slovenia
30. Poland/Romania

- The governance of this group may represent a challenge, with 70 countries overall being members of the OWG. The OWG held its first formal meeting on 14 March and is expected to meet for five days every other month.
- The GA also adopted a resolution on 26 November 2012 recalling the outcome of the Rio Declaration and calling for the Open Working Group to take into consideration the work of the future high-level political forum, which will replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, whose format will be defined by the General Assembly. This resolution also recalled the intergovernmental committee outlined in the Rio declaration ‘with a view to proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to start as soon as possible, preferably in January 2013’. These processes are also likely to impact the future work on the post-2015 agenda.

### **1.5 UN Task Team on Post-2015**

- Together with the UN’s Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), UNDP is co-chairing the UN post-2015 Task Team (UNTT) that started activities in January 2012. The UNTT delivered a report to the Secretary-General (SG) in June in anticipation of the establishment of the SG’s High-Level Panel. It is working under transparent and inclusive parameters with opportunities for Member States to contribute and be informed of progress through informal briefings. UNDP has created and is managing a [TeamWorks site](#) to facilitate the sharing of documents and e-discussions of the UNTT. The work of the UNTT will continue as it will service, through its subset the Technical Support Team, the new intergovernmental ‘Open Working Group (OWG)’.

### **1.6 G20**

The G20 Development Working Group has included the Post-2015 as part of its agenda and has welcomed a presentation the RBEC Director did on behalf of BDP on 27 February, outlining possible contributions from the G20 on the post-2015 process in its final Leaders declaration in September 2013.

## **2. UNTT initial proposed input to the post-2015 Development Agenda**

- The report of the UN Task Team (UNTT) “[Realising the Future We Want for All](#)” was submitted to the SG just before Rio. It will serve as an input to the work of the HLP, and is also likely to be taken into consideration by the new OWG. Various points have been highlighted in this exercise:
  - The relevance of the Millennium Declaration as a valid framework for development;
  - Sustainability, equality and human rights as key cross-cutting issues, which should inform the goals and targets;
  - The post 2015 framework should not be applied with a “one-size-fits-all” approach, but should be developed taking into account national/local realities and ownership;

- There is consensus on the need for an open and inclusive consultation process engaging all stakeholders, as well as the need to support the capacity of Least Developed Countries to participate in the discussions;
- The importance of other processes feeding into the post-2015 discussions has also been stressed, especially Rio+20 and the on-going negotiations around Sustainable Development Goals;
- Member States and other stakeholders share the view of the Secretary-General on the need to work towards one UN development agenda post 2015, with sustainable development at its centre;
- In terms of substantive themes, support has been expressed for a post-2015 agenda that builds on the MDG framework, and keeps the focus on human development, while addressing the emerging challenges, including sustainable development, inclusive growth, inequalities, demographic dynamics, human rights and continuing conflict;
- There is also broad agreement on the need not to overload the agenda and to preserve, in the format of the new agenda, the catalytic power of the MDG framework, with its clear, quantifiable and time-bound goals and targets.

### **3. UNDG Project on Outreach and Consultation on the post-2015 Agenda**

- UNDP has put in place [a project](#) “Planning for Post-2015: The Future we Want”, under a UN Development Group umbrella (UNDG), to help realise the SG’s vision that the discussions about the post-2015 agenda be open and inclusive in line with the UN’s principles. The project entails: (i) supporting a large number (now 87, up to 100) of national dialogues on post-2015; (ii) 11 thematic meetings on issues selected by the UNDG, and (iii) an ambitious social media platform for outreach to all citizens and concerned stakeholders.
- This project is included as part of the UNDG 2012 Annual Work Plan and UNDP’s 2012 Annual Business Plan. Implementing this project will also help improve the quality of the discussions on the post-2015 agenda by bringing ideas and lessons learnt to the table, particularly from the Global South. It will add legitimacy to the process by providing a space for people’s voices in the discussion, particularly those who are normally excluded in national dialogues. Further, it can help ensure buy-in from Member States, particularly those carrying out national dialogues, on the need for having an ambitious and poverty-focused development agenda after 2015.

#### **3.1 National dialogues**

- The target is to support a large number (up to 100) of national-level dialogues on post-2015 between July 2012 and March 2013. Consultations are led by the UN Resident Coordinator and UNCTs with technical and financial support by the regional and HQ capacities of UNDG agencies. The countries selected to participate are a representative sample across several dimensions: regional, country typology, and different types of

development challenges. Other important criteria include demand, ownership, strategic importance to multilateral processes (including Rio+20), and donor preference where stated. High-income countries are excluded from the sample (as this is not the mandate of the UNDG), but outreach and consultation will proceed through alternative channels.

- The UNDG has agreed a list of candidate countries for initial support. The following list of 87 countries does not preclude support to other countries:

Africa (S, E & W)	Asia & Pacific	Latin America & Caribbean	Arab States	Eastern Europe & CIS
Angola	Bangladesh	Bolivia	Algeria Djibouti	Albania
Benin	Bhutan	Brazil	Egypt	Armenia
Burkina Faso	Cambodia	Colombia	Iraq	Azerbaijan
Burundi	China	Costa Rica	Jordan	Belarus
Cameroon	India	Cuba	Lebanon	Kazakhstan
Cap Verde	Indonesia	Dominican Republic	Morocco	Kyrgyzstan
Cote d'Ivoire	Iran	Ecuador	Saudi Arabia	Kosovo Moldova
CAR	Mongolia	El Salvador	Sudan	Montenegro
DRC	Pakistan	Guatemala	Yemen	Tajikistan
Ethiopia	Philippines	Honduras		Turkey
Gabon	PNG	Jamaica		Serbia
Gambia	Samoa	Peru		Turkmenistan
Ghana	Solomon Islands	Santa Lucia		Ukraine
Kenya	Sri Lanka	Suriname		
Liberia	Thailand	Uruguay		
Mali	Timor-Leste			
Malawi	Vietnam			
Mauritania				
Mauritius				
Mozambique				
Niger				
Nigeria				
Rwanda				
Sao Tome and Principe				
Senegal				
South Africa				
Tanzania				
Togo				
Uganda				
Zambia				
Zimbabwe				

- BDP developed a guidance note on inclusive and participatory consultations based on previous experiences by UNDG agencies and civil society. This was approved by the UNDG.



- On 16 July, the UNDP Administrator, as head of the undg, sent a formal communication to all the Resident Coordinators, emphasising the undg nature of the activity and its critical importance for UN work on the post-2015 agenda. The communication included the [guidance note](#) and outlined possible financial support for an initial set of countries. A reminder was sent early November by the Administrator to Resident Coordinators, as well as a message to UN Agencies Heads to ask them to ensure their country representatives were fully involved in the consultation process.
- On 16 August, the Directors of UNDP/BDP and of UNWOMEN/Policy & Programme, as co-chairs of the undg MDG Task Force, sent a formal communication to the Resident Coordinators with information on the submission process for national consultation plans, specifying end of March 2013 as the deadline for reports on national dialogues, and elaborating on the support provided by the undg. The communication included a [question and answers](#) document on the processes for submitting consultation plans and obtaining seed funding. On 29 November, they sent an update, encouraging country offices to use the [www.worldwewant2015.org](http://www.worldwewant2015.org) website.
- A helpdesk facility has been established to support UNCTs in the design and implementation of the national consultations.
- The national consultation plans prepared by UN Country Offices take a very inclusive approach. Drawing from plans received so far (28 November), it appears that:
  - 96% will hold consultations with CSOs
  - 87% will engage with youth groups
  - 87% will involve the private sector
  - 80% will engage with women groups
  - 65 % will include Academia

Countries are determining how they want to take this consultation forward. For example Zambia is appointing champions from arts and sports, and also the First Lady Dr Christine Kaseba Sata. Kazakhstan will hold model UN simulations devoted to post-2015. Papua New Guinea will run an essay and poster competition through two national newspapers to invite the perspectives of children under 15.

### 3.2 Thematic Consultations

- The objective is to organise formal and informal meetings with different stakeholders around current and emerging challenges (starting May 2012). These meetings help to spark the building of a broad coalition for change, benefit from the lessons learned in the implementation of the MDGs, and identify new opportunities for eradicating poverty and enhancing human development. Parties that are interested in supporting these processes are encouraged to not only support singular thematic meetings, but in addition help UNDP mobilise resources for national consultations and/or the broader social media outreach.
- A list of eleven themes were identified and approved within undg. Inter-linkages are recognised, but undg agencies understand the need for a pragmatic division.

- Clusters of UNDG agencies are coordinating the preparation for each thematic meeting drawing on funding from the project as well as sharing costs if required.
- Criteria to guide a consistent approach to the thematic meetings have been developed within the UNDG.
- The first [thematic meeting on Growth, Structural Change and Employment](http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/299198) was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 15-16 May 2012. UNDP co-led the organisation of this meeting with ILO, with contributions from UNCTAD. The high-level meeting on inequalities took place in Copenhagen on 18-19 February and its report is available at <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/299198>

Other thematic consultations have launched their first phase through a call for papers and concept notes are being developed by the UNDG members co-leading the thematic consultations. The consultation on inequalities has received 900 papers.

<b>THEMES</b>	<b>CO-LEADERS</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTORS</b>	<b>Host Governments</b>	<b>Location and date</b>
Inequalities	UNICEF and UN Women	OHCHR, UNDP, UNDESA, MDGF, UNFPA, ILO and FAO	Denmark and Ghana	Copenhagen, Denmark, 18-19 February 2013
Health	UNICEF, WHO	OHCHR, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNDESA, UNFPA and UNIDO	Sweden and Botswana	Gaborone, Botswana, 5-6 March 2013
Education	UNESCO and UNICEF	FAO and ILO	Canada and Senegal	Dakar, Senegal, 18-20 March 2013
Growth and employment	ILO and UNDP	UNCTAD, MDGF, FAO, UNDESA and UNIDO	Japan	Tokyo, Japan, 15-16 May 2012
Environmental sustainability	UNEP and UNDP	UNESCO, UNDESA, MDGF, ILO, WFP, UN Women, UNIDO, UN Habitat and FAO	France and Costa Rica	San Jose, Costa Rica, 18-19 March 2013
Governance	UNDP and OHCHR	UNICEF, UN Women, UNMC, UNDESA, MDGF, ILO and FAO	Germany, with the support of South Africa	Johannesburg, South Africa, 28 February - 1 March 2013
Conflict and fragility	UNDP, PBSO and ISDR	WFP, UNDESA, UN Women	Finland, with the support of Panama, Liberia and Indonesia	Helsinki, Finland, 13 March 2013
Population dynamics	UNDESA, IOM, UNFPA and UNHABITAT	FAO, ILO	Switzerland and Bangladesh	Dhaka, Bangladesh, 11-12 March 2013
Hunger, Food and nutrition security	WFP and FAO	UNDP, UNICEF, UNDESA, UNIDO and the HLTF	Spain and Columbia	Madrid, Spain, 4 April 2013
Energy	UNIDO, DESA and World Bank	UNDP and UNICEF, FAO	Norway, Mexico and Tanzania	Oslo, Norway, 9 April 2013
Water	UNICEF, DESA and UN Water	UNECE, FAO	The Netherlands, Switzerland, Liberia and Jordan	The Hague, the Netherlands, 21-22 March 2013

### 3.3 Web / Social Media Outreach

- The objective is to take advantage of the proliferation of social networks and web-based tools, and of the rapid diffusion of mobile technologies to launch a global interactive outreach campaign. This is led by a small group of UN entities including the Millennium

Campaign (MC), the Global Compact (GC), UN Department of Public Information (DPI), and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), in coordination with civil society, private sector and communications teams of UNDG agencies. A web platform (launched in September) complements the face to face consultation processes as well as the formal UN communications website. It is being co-managed with civil-society organisations (Beyond2015, Caritas).

- DPI has created an interim corporate [post-2015 webpage](#) that features related news, reports and think pieces.
- Based on a proposal, elaborated with BDP-lead and approved by the UNDG, the open online platform “[The Future We Want for All](#)” has been launched on September 25 2012.
- The UN Millennium campaign is reaching out to various constituencies and is developing an outreach strategy together with Global Compact.
- MyWorld, ([www.Myworld2015.org](http://www.Myworld2015.org)), an online platform which enables citizens from all-over the world to express their preferences for the post-2015 development framework, in the form of surveys, is picking up speed rapidly. The web version of MY World was launched in mid-December. As of 1 March 2013, people from 189 countries have cast nearly 55,000 votes, with approximately 700 votes per day. Over 53% of the respondents are women. 124 partners have signed up to promote MY World to their members.

### **3.4 Project revision**

- The project was revised to take into account new initiatives such as the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015, as well as the results of the Rio+20 Conference. The project extension consists in :
- Adding consultations around the “how to” design the key building blocks of the post-2015 framework, including development metrics, data availability, monitoring and accountability systems, means of implementation, sources of finance, and technology exchange among others; after the 2013 General Assembly.
- Producing knowledge products which table challenges and opportunities for different regions, sub-regions and country typologies, with the help of UNDG regional Commissions.
- Commissioning of think pieces that reflect on the visions and perspectives of civil society networks and other stakeholders around post-2015. This is done in partnerships with NGLS;
- Increasing the ambition of the use of modern information and communications technology to facilitate a global consultation and the engagement of citizens and stakeholders by utilising new innovations in crowd-sourcing and open data, offline and

online methods, and to expand the constituencies and reach out to the digitally disconnected;

- Adding an output aimed at supporting the set up and functioning of the HLP and the Post-2015 Secretariat;
- Including an output aimed at establishing a UNDP post-2015 Team given the increased ambition of the project's deliverables.

#### **4. Post-2015 Related Discussions**

- Numerous existing and emerging processes and initiatives touch upon the new development agenda, including the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP), Rio+20 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) in Busan, and the Peace-building and State-building Goals (PSGs) for fragile states.
- The informal groups associated with these and other related processes (such as the "Friends of the MDGs" led by the UK) can provide a good sounding board for initial discussions on the post-2015 agenda before formal negotiations take place.
- Japan has convened an informal "Contact Group" on the Post-MDG development agenda with the objective of exploring possible models and modalities of a new global framework for development beyond 2015, pursuing synergy among other initiatives, producing solid recommendations in preparation for more formal international discussion on post-2015, and providing the general public and civil society organisations with thought-provoking visions and ideas on the post-MDG era (a report will be published). UNDP is an active member of this Contact Group, which is holding its 6th meeting in New York on 11-12 March 2013.
- A special event will take place in follow-up to efforts made towards achieving the MDGs at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, which will begin in September 2013. The special event, which should devote particular attention to accelerating progress towards the MDGs during the final stretch to 2015, is seen as a key milestone in the deliberations on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. It will take place on 25 September, in the form of a one-day event, with a chair summary. Ireland and South Africa are co-facilitating the organisation of this event.

#### **MDGs and MAF**

##### **5. MDGs, lessons learned**

The July 2012 MDG Progress Report highlighted important gains in poverty reduction: the global target of halving extreme poverty was met five years ahead of the 2015 deadline. The target of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water has also been met. On average across the world, gender parity in primary education has been achieved. The lives of slums dwellers in urban areas have improved, levels of child mortality have decreased. There is a downward trend of tuberculosis and global malaria deaths and an expansion of treatment for HIV sufferers.

But we are still a long way from achieving some of the goals and targets:

- Aggregate figures at the global level disguise massive disparities in progress, both within countries and between countries. Hunger remains a global challenge. Hundreds of millions of children are undernourished and stunting affects almost 200 million children worldwide. All the MDGs closely linked to food and nutrition are lagging, particularly child mortality (MDG 4) and maternal mortality (MDG 5).
- Only 61 per cent of people in sub-Saharan Africa have access to improved sources of water, while the level in most other regions is 90 per cent or higher. Furthermore, with 2.5 billion people lacking improved sanitation, the world is unlikely to meet the MDG sanitation target. Lack of sanitation is also a major obstacle to girls' school attendance.
- Many people who have escaped extreme poverty are still vulnerable. Their incomes have not risen sufficiently to protect them from shocks, such as the impending food crisis in the Sahel. And the absolute numbers of people living in slums continues to grow.
- Similarly, not all members of society have benefited equally from progress recorded at the national or global level. We must ensure that our approach reaches those left behind or at risk of being left behind: the poorest of the poor and those disadvantaged, stigmatized, or discriminated against because of their sex, age, race, ethnicity, place of residence, or disability. Fighting inequality must be seen as equally important as improving the lives of people 'on average'.

Some of the key lessons learned from the MDGs are that development happens when there is<sup>3</sup>:

- effective government, leadership, and national ownership of development strategies;
- effective policies that support implementation;
- improved quantity, quality and focus of investments, financed both by domestic sources and international development assistance;
- appropriate institutional capacity to deliver quality services equitably on a national scale, and effective monitoring and evaluation;
- civil society and community involvement, and empowerment;
- effective global partnerships, involving all relevant stakeholders, with mutual accountability of all stakeholders; and,
- good governance by donors and recipients.

At the same time, during the 2010 MDG Summit, the international community focused on what could be done to accelerate MDG achievement in a sustainable way, recognizing that we live in a world where volatility is a new normal, and shocks and crises stemming from economic, political, climate, food and energy risks are ever more frequent. The concept of *resilience* must therefore become more central in our development discourse and help guide the priorities for beyond 2015.

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<sup>3</sup> UNDP, *What Will it Take to Achieve the MDGs? - An International Assessment*; New York, June 2010

Evidence also suggests that there are significant multiplier effects across the MDGs, with synergistic returns to investments in:

- women's empowerment;
- health;
- education;
- environmental sustainability and resilience;
- employment-intensive growth;
- agricultural innovation; and
- energy access for all.

The next generation of national MDG reports, supported technically and financially by UNDP, will help collect evidence in this regard from a broad cross-section of countries to help inform the development of the post2015 development agenda. *Resources for this work are currently being mobilized.*

## **6. MAF, lessons learned**

The MDG Acceleration Framework is designed to help countries identify the bottlenecks preventing MDG progress and the priority actions needed to accelerate progress, through a multi-stakeholder consultative process.

First introduced in 2010 it is now applied in more than 40 countries. These include countries where MAF action plans are currently under development, as well as those where completed action plans are under implementation:

- Latin America and Caribbean: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Perú.
- Asia and Pacific: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Nepal, Lao PDR PNG, Indonesia and the Philippines.
- Africa: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, CAR, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia
- CIES: Armenia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine.
- Arab States: Jordan

In these countries it has helped break down silos between sectors in favour of pragmatic, cross-sectorial, problem-solving approaches, and has demonstrated that countries can shift trajectory.

### *Examples of implementation results:*

- **Identified neglected policy areas.** As in the case of the MAF in Uganda, on the MDG 5 (maternal health), that addressed women's right to reproductive health choices.
- **Forged new partnerships.** As in the case of the MAF in Colombia's covering various MDGs, where provincial governments partnered with the private sector for job creation among vulnerable groups.

- **Mobilized Resources.** As in the case of the MAF in Niger’s on the MDG 1 (hunger) with allocation of domestic budgetary resources (\$30 million) towards implementation as well as contributions from partners such as JICA and the EU. **Strengthened advocacy.** As in the case of the first MAF in Ghana on MDG 5 (maternal health) that declared “national emergency on maternal mortality” and successfully brought new partners on board
- **Cross-practice implementation support:** As in the case of the MAF in Belize on MDG 7 (water and sanitation) to help remove governance and capacity bottlenecks related to the water boards.
- **Incorporating into UNDAF Action Plan:** As in the case of Tanzania (DaO) on MDG 1 (poverty and hunger) and Lao PDR on MDGs 2&3 (education).
- **Encouraging regional and global collaboration** with development partners (MDG Summit follow up conference in Tokyo; EU and others)
- **Lao PDR**, one of the pioneers using the MDG Acceleration approach, identified six priority areas where action is needed to accelerate MDG progress. The MDG Acceleration Action Plan strongly recognizes the needs of the most vulnerable groups such as the poor, women, children, and ethnic and remote communities. To make progress on the MDGs, quickly and comprehensively through the MAF Action Plan, UNDP has partnered with UNCDF to support the Government of Lao PDR in addressing capacity constraints at the sub-national level to strengthen and innovate to deliver MDG-related services. These efforts are part of the Joint Programme “Governance and Public Administration Reform: Support for Better Service Delivery” (GPAR), which is receiving support from various donors.
- In **Belize**, applying the Acceleration Framework helped the government to identify why rural areas, primarily populated by Mayan communities, were not receiving adequate water and sanitation services. The lack of representation and participation by stakeholders in local water boards and a lack of accountability were identified as the key bottlenecks. Specific measures were then agreed upon to improve the governance of water boards – making them more inclusive and accountable.
- In **Colombia**, the MAF has now been implemented at three different levels: departmental (province), municipal and cluster of municipalities (sub-regions). Following the first phase of MAF action plan development in the country – the private sector has come forward to partner in developing these action plans for municipalities and help in their implementation.
  - In *Cauca* department for example, a local electricity company has funded the development of the Action Plans for the seven most disadvantaged municipalities, and has identified solutions that strengthen small agro-businesses, assisting the rural poor from indigenous and Afro communities to find a way out of poverty and hunger. In *Nariño*, the agenda for gender equality identified through the MAF is being taken forward directly by local organizations and communities, including a School of Gender for Local and Regional Development, which is providing entrepreneurial leadership training for 1600 women in 40 municipalities of Nariño, including 200 indigenous women.



- In **Niger** acceleration solutions have been identified for removing the bottlenecks constraining achievement of targets poverty and hunger. A number of these are being implemented. For example:
  - The bottleneck of inadequate rural credit is being addressed through new programmes of the Banque Agricole, the Regional Solidarity Bank of Niger and an established micro finance institution, Asusu Cigaba.
  - Improving the livelihoods of pastoralists by securing and improving sustainable management of soils and livestock against weather hazards is being taken forward in three priority regions - Niamey, Dosso and Tillabery. Actions of note include the establishment of 827 land titles in the second quarter of 2011 as part of the effort to improve investments such as irrigation canals, hydro-agricultural facilities and reservoirs.
  - The Government itself has demonstrated its commitment through a pledge of 30 million USD over five years to the implementation of the Action Plan. The donor community, namely the EC and JICA is strongly supporting the implementation of the Acceleration Plan.

Overall results from the MAF countries suggest that it is effective in supporting programme countries to prioritize what works, and turn strategies into coordinated, multi-stakeholder action which will accelerate MDG progress. Key ingredients for a framework to be successful are effective partnerships, ownership and accountability.

Key partners such as the EC have demonstrated their commitment to support the acceleration of the MDGs by opening up funding opportunities to eligible partner countries on the basis of their MAF analysis and action plans.

## 7. Map of MAF Rollout



Figure 1 Countries where MAF has been rolled out