



Dear Reader,

We are pleased to share with you the first Newsletter prepared by the team at [UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Africa](#).

With more than 100 technical advisors and development specialists from diverse disciplines in Addis Ababa, Dakar and Nairobi, our team is committed to providing high level, high quality and expeditious assistance and guidance to both our internal and external partners to enhance successful development transformation of Africa.

We hope this newsletter will serve you as solid source of information on our latest engagements on the continent and a tool for tapping into the latest development milestones.

Sincerely,  
Lebogang Motlana  
Director

### **New financing framework set to bolster sustainable development**



The ground-breaking [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), set at the end of the [Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#) that took place from 13 to 16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and [adopted by the UN General Assembly](#), provides a financing framework

which can support implementation of the proposed [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

The new agenda highlights the need to develop capacities for domestic resource mobilisation and to provide access to a broad spectrum of sources of financing. It acknowledges that financing for development needs to be risk-informed, be cognizant of the accelerated impact of climate change and environmental degradation, and take into account peoples' vulnerability to natural hazards.

As the adoption of the new, global sustainable development agenda draws closer, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with a [large portfolio of work on financing for development](#), reaffirms its commitment to support countries to tap into the resources they need to realise this new agenda. "We are fit for that purpose, and we are dedicated to supporting national partners to build the capacities they need to access finance, strengthen domestic resource mobilization, and advance inclusive and sustainable development," emphasised [UNDP Administrator Helen Clark at the plenary of the conference](#).

During the conference, UNDP was involved in over 25 side-events (list and details of most of the events [here](#)) to advocate the importance of exploring different sources of public financing beyond Official Development Assistance, boosting the use of private finance for development, and ensuring financing is risk-informed. Among these, UNDP's seven flagship events included the global launch of the [Tax Inspectors without Borders](#), a joint initiative with the OECD to build capacity for domestic resource mobilisation; an event on [inclusive business](#) as a contributor to the implementation of the new sustainable development agenda; and an event showcasing UNDP's work and the importance of striving for [risk-informed development](#). In addition, Helen Clark and Global Environment Facility CEO Naoko Ishii visited the largest gene bank in Africa at the Ethiopia Institute for Biodiversity to view how [environmental finance](#) plays a critical role in advancing sustainable development.

### **UNDP convenes partners to discuss the Africa We Want in Post-2015**



VIDEO: Paul Ladd, Director of UNDP's Team on the Post 2015 Development Agenda talks about the new global sustainable development goals.

Africans called for education, jobs, decent health care, and responsive governments according to the global [My World Survey](#) that canvassed the views of the general public on what they want to see in the new set of universal [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). These new goals will be adopted at the [UN Summit on the post-2015 development agenda](#) to be held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015. UNDP, as part of the [UN Development Group](#), is working on a strategy for effective and coherent implementation support to countries on the SDGs .

The process of the post-2015 development agenda and the results of the My World Survey were discussed at an informal [panel discussion, The Africa We Want in Post-2015](#), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as part of the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa's Development Dialogues series. The event drew high level participation from government, private sector, development partners and other UN Agencies. Paul Ladd, Director of the UNDP Post-2015 team, presented to the participants the [status of the post-2015 process, proposed goals and targets, and issues related to their implementation, follow-up and review](#). The discussion then centered on financing of the new SDGs and the complementary roles of different actors and sectors in achieving them. The participants also discussed the linkages between the SDGs and the African Union's [Agenda 2063](#) that sets a pathway to an integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent.

#### **UNDP continues work to combat Ebola**



#### **25th AU Summit promotes women's empowerment**

Heads of the 54 Member States of the African Union (AU) met in Johannesburg, South Africa from 14 to 15 June 2015. The AU summit was held under the theme, Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Agenda 2063, and the AU Assembly adopted wide ranging decisions aimed at pushing forward the implementation of Agenda 2063. [A summary of the decisions, declarations and resolutions can be found here.](#)

The international community pledged more than five billion US dollars, during the [International Ebola Recovery Conference](#) that took place on 10 July 2015 in New York, USA, to support Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in their efforts to recover from the effects of Ebola. The commitments and resources raised from the continued partnership of the international community will help establish resilient and vibrant communities that can stay free of Ebola and re-establish social and economic development. The mobilized resources will support the countries in their efforts to [get to zero cases, stay at zero cases and recover](#).

UNDP has been helping [Guinea](#), [Liberia](#) and [Sierra Leone](#) to combat the virus, from making sure that tens of thousands of emergency response workers received payment, to providing business training to help local economies get back on their feet. At the height of the epidemic, UNDP also worked with communities to identify new Ebola cases, trace virus contact sources, and educate people on how the disease was spread and how to avoid contracting it. UNDP also works to fight stigma, reintegrate survivors and give support to their families.

Separately, oversight of the UN system's Ebola emergency response is now being led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), following the closure of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), the first ever UN emergency health mission, on 31 July 2015. In a statement, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that UNMEER had [achieved its core objective of scaling up the response on the ground and](#)

UNDP's work in Africa builds on the AU's [Agenda 2063](#) and the African Women's Decade and seeks to put in place an [enabling environment for women and men to effectively contribute to Africa's structural economic transformation](#).

### **Adoption of SDGs draws closer**

The intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda concluded on 2 August 2015, with the adoption of the final draft text of the [Outcome Document](#) by consensus. Upon recommendation from the current 69th Session of the UN General Assembly, formal approval will take place during the upcoming September Summit, at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly.

The emerging post-2015 development agenda, including the set of SDGs, builds on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The UN Secretary-General's [Millennium Development Goals Report 2015](#), published on 7 July 2015, is the final periodic report on the MDGs.

UNDP is now working with its national partners to prepare for adoption of the new development agenda. In Africa, in partnership with regional institutions and stakeholders, [UNDP is engaging with the ongoing international dialogue on the agenda and helping to adapt it to the African context and development priorities](#).

[establishing unity of purpose among responders in support of the nationally led effort.](#)

## **2015: Time for Global Action for People and Planet: Join the Campaign**

2015 presents an historic opportunity to bring the countries and citizens of the world together to decide and embark on new paths to improve the lives of people everywhere. These decisions will determine the global course of action to [end poverty, promote prosperity](#) and well-being for all, protect the environment and [address climate change](#). For updates, news and communications materials click [here](#).

### ***Reflections from Addis Ababa - Our Blog Series***



#### **A sidelined youth: The soft underbelly of 'Africa rising'**

Africa's comparative advantage lies in its youthful population, and only through its youth can the continent surmount the difficulties that lie ahead explains Mohamed Yahya, UNDP Africa Regional Programme Coordinator. Check out his blog [here](#).



#### **The gender gap in extractive dependent countries**

"Can we use the revenues generated from oil, gas and minerals to reduce the gender gap in countries with abundant natural resource?" ask Degol Hailu, Senior Advisor, UNDP and Chinpihoi Kipgen, Research Associate, UNDP. Read their blog [here](#).

### **Country Support**

The Country Support Team (CST) is the Regional Service Centre's first responder for all Country Offices' (CO) requests and requirements in the areas of country programme development,

policy, programme and operations. The CST ensures timely support to COs by drawing on the technical expertise from Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) and other Central Bureaux. The CST team, based in Addis Ababa, is organized into three clusters covering all the UNDP Africa COs: West, Central, and East and Southern.

The team has supported the COs in Guinea Bissau, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe in preparing their country programme documents. Similar work is ongoing in Chad, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, South Sudan, and Tanzania.

The team is also coordinating technical support including mission planning, closure of outstanding audit recommendations, providing support and guidance on corporate policies and procedures, and preparation of briefing papers for country programme visits and meetings involving the UNDP principals and CO management.

### **Upcoming events**

**1-4 September 2015:** [UNDP Executive Board Second Regular Session, New York, USA](#)

**15-28 September 2015:** [70th Session of the UN General Assembly \(UNGA 70\), New York, USA](#)

**25-27 September 2015:** [UN Summit on the post-2015 development agenda, New York, USA](#)

**30 November-11 December 2015:** [21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(COP21/CMP11\), Paris, France](#)

### **Feedback**

We look forward to receiving your feedback on our newsletter. Please, send your views to [comms-africa@undp.org](mailto:comms-africa@undp.org).



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