

## Launch of the Sustainable Development Goals



World leaders formally adopted the new, universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September. The agreement marks an important milestone in putting the world on an inclusive and sustainable course, and the new agenda will serve as the launch pad for action. It will help the international community and national governments to promote shared prosperity and well-being for all over the next 15 years.

The new agenda includes a set of [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

With 50 years of experience supporting countries in their development goals and plans, UNDP continues to be fully committed to working with countries as they implement the SDGs. This

support will be provided in three different ways, through the MAPS approach: mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support. Specifically,

- Providing support to governments to reflect the new global agenda in national development plans and policies. This work is already underway in many countries at national request;
- Supporting countries to accelerate progress on SDG targets. In this, we will make use of our extensive experience over the past five years with the MDG Acceleration Framework; and
- Making the UNDP's policy expertise on sustainable development and governance available to governments at all stages of implementation.

### **SDGs and Agenda 2063**

For Africa, it will be crucial to domesticate the SDGs, while being cognizant of the [African Common Position](#) and the continental aspirations and agreements articulated by the African Union's (AU's) [Agenda 2063](#).

UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) has summarized an analysis of how the two agendas relate to each other, and has considered the implications, challenges and opportunities for their domestication processes. Find out more about it [here](#).

Key elements of UNDP Africa's support will be helping regional and national partners across Africa to integrate SDGs into regional and national planning frameworks, mobilizing partnerships and finances, and providing technical support for translating the commitments of the 2030 agenda into implementable policies and programmes.

### **Taking Stock of the MDGs – Final Gap Task Force Report 2015**

The UN MDG Gap Task Force is an inter-agency initiative that includes more than 30 organizations with specialised competence in the five core domains of MDG 8 on the global partnership for development: official development assistance, market access, debt sustainability, access to affordable essential medicines and access to new technologies.

The Taskforce's final report, "[Taking Stock of the Global Partnership for Development](#)", reviews and monitors recent achievements and challenges in the implementation of MDG 8.

Key report findings reveal that official development assistance flows have increased by 66 percent from 2000 to 2014. In merchandise exports, developing countries' access to

developed-country markets has improved from 30.5 to 43.8 percent over the same period. Debt burdens have been reduced in most highly indebted poor countries. Mobile phone penetration in developing countries is estimated to reach 92 percent at the end of 2015, compared to less than 10 percent in 2000.

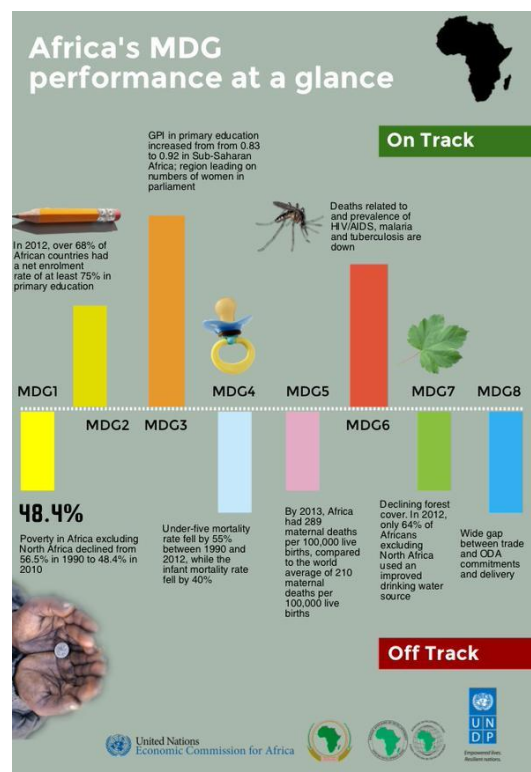
Nevertheless, the Report also finds that major gaps persist in development aid flows to the least developed countries and in eliminating trade barriers for developing countries. Additionally, many people cannot access essential medicines and the Internet at affordable prices.

### Africa: Moving from MDGs to SDGs

Having made encouraging progress on the MDGs, African countries have the opportunity to use the newly-launched SDGs to tackle remaining challenges and achieve a development breakthrough, notes the [Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals](#) report, released on 28 September 2015, and co-authored by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the AU, the African Development Bank and UNDP.

The report notes that Africa has achieved impressive gains, including in placing more children in primary school, bridging the gender gap in primary enrollment, increasing the representation of women in national parliaments, reducing child and maternal deaths as well as the prevalence of HIV and AIDS. These achievements underscore the important role that national commitment, supported by global partnerships, can play in realizing development objectives.

The report also pinpoints that much more work lies ahead to ensure living standards improve for all African women and men.



The authors note that while economic growth has been relatively strong, it has not been rapid or inclusive enough to create jobs.

### ***Country Office Spotlight: Botswana***

The SDGs have already been mainstreamed at the local level across Botswana's 16 districts under the dual leadership of the ministries of Finance and Development Planning, and Local Government and Rural Development. UNDP has supported this work by providing development planning technical advice and through nationwide public awareness activities. As of June 2015, all district and regional plans are anchored in the SDGs, and local government officials, district planners, economists, budget officers and population officers have been trained on the SDGs.

The national planning frameworks, Vision 2036 and the National Development Plan (NDP11), currently being prepared, will also be anchored in the SDGs. UNDP is representing the UN System in the Vision planning and drafting committee (that includes the National Strategy Office and the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis), as well as in the NDP 11 Advisory Group.

UNDP on behalf of the UN System has provided technical expertise and inputs into both processes. As a result, the Cabinet-approved framework document for Vision 2036 makes strong reference to the SDGs, particularly in the areas related to economic growth and environmental sustainability. In the NDP11 process, UNDP contributed to the Cabinet-approved keynote policy paper that specified the need to anchor NDP11 in the SDGs. UNDP has further contributed to ensuring the alignment of the SDGs in the macro-policy paper that is the final step towards the NDP11 preparation.

### **Supporting a region on the move – UNDP's regional programme for Africa**

UNDP's [regional programme for Africa](#) supports the continent's transformation by enhancing inclusive and sustainable growth, increasing space for political participation, and redefining the social contract through development of responsive institutions and promotion of civic and democratic values.

The four-year programme, over 2014-2017, focuses on supporting the regional institutions and economic communities to address and manage cross-border risks, and capitalise on opportunities. The Regional programme also works with UNDP's offices in Africa to support

the national uptake of continental legal frameworks and initiatives.

For more information, please, view the factsheets: 1) [Promote structural economic transformation](#), 2) [Transform governance](#), 3) [Foster resilience to shocks and threats](#), 4) [Promote the SDGs and South-South Cooperation](#), and 5) [Foster gender equality and women's political and economic empowerment](#).

New regional initiatives on preventing and responding to extremism in Africa and on migration, the latter with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) are underway. More on these in the next RSCA newsletter.



*VIDEO: UNDP Africa's Regional Programme in a nutshell.*

### **Domesticating AU treaties**

The UNDP RSCA is supporting the AU Commission's Office of Legal Counsel to examine ways of accelerating the ratification and domestication of AU treaties and removing bottlenecks at the regional and national levels. As part of this process, the RSCA and AUC analysed country level data. The findings of this initial [analysis](#) were presented and discussed at the 2nd RSCA Partners' Roundtable on 14 September.

The highly successful event brought together the AUC Office of Legal Counsel, UNDP and more than 15 development partners to discuss partnering opportunities to speed up the treaty

ratification and domestication processes as a foundational requirement for regional integration. As Mali is the country leading in the number of AU treaties ratified, Mali's Ambassador to the AU, Fafre Camara, shared this experience, highlighting the consultative process from negotiation of a treaty through to ratification.

The partners' inputs will feed into the design of a new AUC-UNDP initiative, to be launched this year. The programme will be implemented by the AUC Office of Legal Counsel and the RSCA, in close collaboration and coordination with development partners and the Regional Economic Communities, and building on UNDP's presence in all African countries. It will support the ratification of AU treaties at country level and enhance the capacity of the AUC to monitor and assist Member States in the ratification and implementation process.

### Maendeleo Policy Forums kick off



The first monthly Maendeleo Policy Forum Pulling Back from the Brink: Options for National Dialogue in Burundi was held on 8 October at the Regional Service Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Forum brought together Dr. Agostinho Zacarias, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Burundi, and Dr. Yolande Bouka, Researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, and development partners, including the UN office to the AU, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Liaison Office to the AU, a number of embassies including Guinea, Mali, Switzerland, the United States of America among other missions, representatives of other UN agencies and civil society representatives to discuss and reflect on the current situation in Burundi, including the upcoming national dialogue.

The discussion covered issues related to governance, conflict drivers, the refugees, scenarios, and the role of the international community, including the East African Community (EAC), the Great Lakes region as a whole, the African Union and the UN in supporting a workable solution. The lively discussion generated inputs that will be collated in summary report which will be shared with partners in Burundi and other key stakeholders.

The Maendeleo Policy Forum is set up to provide space for African leaders, researchers, policy makers, development practitioners and writers, to dialogue and debate on critical issues of development in Africa. Upcoming forums will cover diverse issues including countering violent extremism, among others.

### **Gearing up for the UN Climate Change Conference**

### **Supporting African smallholder farmers to ensure food security**

In the run-up to the [UN Climate Change Conference \(COP21\)](#), in Paris, France, this December, the RSCA is providing targeted technical support to the African Group of Negotiators (comprised of climate negotiators from every African country) and the lead coordinators, who represent the African Group of Negotiators on key thematic issues within the talks, such as mitigation, adaptation, finance, etc. This work is focused on enhancing Africa's capacity to engage in the international climate change negotiations, including voice and influence, and supporting the development of Africa's common position. Delegates to the COP are expected to agree on a plan to tackle climate change.

The COP21 meeting is the fourth major development conference of the year. It follows the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, where countries signed a new framework for disaster risk reduction; the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, where delegates agreed on a new

framework to finance development; and the SDG Summit in New York, where world leaders adopted the new global development agenda.

UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, and Conservation International are supporting 12 Sub-Saharan countries to promote environmental sustainability and boost food security.

By integrating environmental priorities at scale, this US\$106.5 million pilot programme [Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa](#), financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), will enable smallholder farmers in the dryland regions ensure the sustainability and resilience of production systems. The programme will foster supportive policies and incentives for smallholder farmers to adopt sustainable practices; increase private sector investment in climate-resilient and low-emission food value-chains; and promote mechanisms for multi-stakeholder coordination, planning and investment in sustainable land management.

The design of specific project interventions in the participating countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda) is well underway and the implementation of these activities is set for August 2016.

### **Boosting private sector development in Africa**

UNDP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) signed on 30 September a new agreement to

### **United Nations turns 70**



bolster inclusive growth in Africa through private sector, inclusive business, and market development.

The 3.7 million Swiss Francs contribution will support a three-year initiative "[Accelerating Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa](#)" that seeks to create employment and livelihoods, particularly for women and young people, and support regional institutions and national governments in developing inclusive markets and businesses. The initiative builds on the ongoing work of [UNDP's African Facility for Inclusive Markets](#).

"The 70th anniversary of the United Nations is an opportunity to reflect – to look back on the UN's history and take stock of its enduring achievements. It is also an opportunity to spotlight where the UN – and the international community as a whole – needs to redouble its efforts to meet current and future challenges across the three pillars of its work: peace and security, development, and human rights."

- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's [message](#) for UN at 70

### ***Voices from Addis Ababa, Dakar and Nairobi – Our blog series***



"Preserving historical data isn't just an exercise in saving bits of old paper - it is an investment that can truly save lives and enhance climate risk preparedness"

Excellent Hachileka, Programme Specialist, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Cluster, UNDP

Click [here](#) to read the blog



"How are African countries to 'domesticate' both the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into their national development plans?"

Alessandra Casazza, Programme Advisor for the MDGs/SDGs, UNDP

Click [here](#) to read the blog.

## Upcoming events

- 9 November 2015: Africa Launch of the Development Minerals Programme, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 11 November 2015: Maendeleo Policy Forum “Violent Extremism in Africa: Challenges, Options and Opportunities”, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 11-12 November 2015: [Valletta Summit on migration, Valletta, Malta](#)
- 23 November 2015: High-level panel discussion on addressing Violent Extremism in Africa and launch of UNDP regional initiative: Preventing and Responding to Extremism in Africa, 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](#)
- 14 December 2015: [Global Launch of the Human Development Report "Work for Human Development", Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)
- 24-31 January 2016: [26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)

## 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).



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)

Copyright © 2015 UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)