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23 April 2014

UNDP China Global Issues Newsletter

Table of Contents

Please Click the Topic

UN Headquarters Updates | Page 1-3

The *UN Headquarters Updates* keep you in touch with the latest MDGs & post-2015 updates from the UN headquarters.

Open Working Group Co-Chairs Issue Working Document with 16 Focus Areas, 140 Targets | page 1

UN Secretary-General, Global Leaders Urge Action on Education | page 2

UNCTAD Hosts Second Geneva Dialogue on Post-2015 | page 2

UN Paper Highlights Structural Transformation for African Development Goals | page 3

Global Updates | Page 4-6

The *Global Updates* keep you in touch with the latest MDGs & post-2015 news from all around the world.

IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings Emphasize Climate Change, Sustainable Development | page 4

South-South Forum Discusses New Models of Development Cooperation | page 4

EU, China Discuss Climate Change, Post-2015 Development Agenda | page 5

African Leaders Discuss Inclusive, Transformative Development | page 5

India, China Boycott High-level Meeting on Global Partnership | page 6

Voices | Page 7

UN Headquarters Updates

OWG Co-Chairs Issue Working Document with 16 Focus Areas, 140 Targets

17 April 2014



The Co-chairs of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have issued a revised working document in preparation for the OWG's 11th session. The new document represents the latest revision to the set of "focus areas" under consideration in the OWG. It includes 16 focus areas and 140 targets.

Focus Area 1, on Poverty eradication, building shared prosperity and promoting equality, calls to "End poverty in all its forms everywhere," and includes a target to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Focus Area 2, on Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, calls to "End hunger and improve nutrition for all through sustainable agriculture and improved food systems," and includes a target that all people have access to adequate (safe, affordable, diverse and nutritious) food all year round.

Focus Area 3, on Health and population dynamics, calls for "Healthy life at all ages for all," and includes a target to, by 2030, reduce the maternal mortality ratio to less than 40 per 100,000 live births, end preventable new-born and child deaths and reduce by x% child and maternal morbidity. Focus Area 4, on Education and life-long learning, calls to "Provide quality education and life-long learning for all," and includes a target to, by 2030, ensure universal, free, equitable access to and completion of quality primary and secondary education for all girls and boys, leading to effective learning outcomes.

Focus Area 5, on Gender equality and women's empowerment, calls to "Attain gender equality and women's empowerment everywhere," and includes a target to, by 2030, end all forms of discrimination against women of all ages. Focus Area 6, on Water and sanitation, calls for "Water and sanitation for a sustainable world," and includes a target to, by 2030, provide universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, especially for women and girls.

Focus Area 7, on Energy, calls to "Ensure access to

affordable, sustainable, and reliable modern energy for all," and includes a target to, by 2030, ensure universal access to sustainable modern energy services. Focus Area 8, on Economic growth, employment and infrastructure, calls to "Promote sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth and decent jobs for all," and includes a target to sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the income distribution of each country to reduce income inequalities by 2030.

Focus Area 9, on Industrialization and promoting equality among nations, calls to "Promote sustainable industrialization and equality among nations," and includes a target to ensure adequate policy space and a conducive policy environment for industrial development, including encouragement of industrial entrepreneurship and enterprise formation with inclusion of SMEs. Focus Area 10, on Sustainable cities and human settlements, calls to "Build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements," and includes a target to, by 2030, ensure universal access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for all, and eliminate slum-like conditions everywhere.

Focus Area 11, on Sustainable Consumption and Production, calls to "Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns," and includes a target to, by 2030, achieve sustainable management and use of natural resources. Focus Area 12, on Climate change, calls to "Take urgent and significant action to mitigate and adapt to climate change" and "Build a climate change goal based on the outcome of COP21 of the UNFCCC." It includes a target to hold the increase in global average temperature below an x°C rise in accordance with international agreements.

Focus Area 13, on Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas, calls to "Take urgent and significant actions for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas," and includes a target to, by 2030, prevent, control and reduce by x% marine pollution and marine disposal of waste and tailings, including from land-based activities. Focus Area 14, on

Ecosystems and biodiversity, calls to “Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss,” and includes a target to, by 2020, halt the loss of all biodiversity, including habitats, and protect threatened species, and to, by 2030, achieve a land degradation neutral world.

Focus Area 15, on Means of implementation/Global partnership for sustainable development, calls to “Strengthen global partnership for sustainable development.” It identifies as means of implementation: Trade; Technology transfer, technological capabilities; Financing and debt sustainability; Capacity building; and Strengthened global partnership for sustainable development, with targets under each category. Focus Area 16, on Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions, calls for “Peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law and capable institutions.” It includes targets on “Creating peaceful and inclusive societies” and on “Rule of law, capable institutions.”

Each focus area also notes “appropriate means of implementation,” in addition to Focus Area 15.

Endnotes to the document indicate the level of support for targets, attribute suggested targets to specific Member States, and note potential indicators, *inter alia*.

In a letter to all UN Member States, OWG co-Chairs Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, and Csaba Kőrösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary, recall that at OWG 10 it was agreed that they also would compile Member States' proposals on goals and targets, to “serve as a comprehensive reference as we work through the working document” at OWG 11. They invite delegations to make written submissions for this compilation by 30 April.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/owg-co-chairs-issue-working-document-with-16-focus-areas-140-targets/>

UN Secretary-General, Global Leaders Urge Action on Education

10 April 2014



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other global leaders launched the Emergency Coalition for Global Education Access, which aims to get 57 million children in school, and calls for “four zeros”: zero exclusion from education; zero discrimination against girls; zero child labor; and zero child marriage. The Coalition was established in response to reports that the world is off track in achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of getting all children into education by 2015.

At the current pace, it will be 2086 before all children are in school, according to the UN. Describing current progress as “unacceptable from a moral, economic and global security perspective,” UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown said education must be put “on the international agenda in a way that cannot be ignored.” Ban added that too many children are kept out of school because of conflict, displacement, sexual and gender-based violence, and child marriage and labor.

The launch took place on the sidelines of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Spring Meetings in Washington, DC, US, along with several other education-focused events.

The World Bank's ‘Learning for All Symposium’ highlighted the role of children's education in ending extreme poverty and building shared prosperity. Ban said “there is no greater return than investing in education,” and called on political leaders, national governments and donors to reverse trends of declining spending on education. He recommended integrating “quality, inclusive and equitable education and lifelong learning in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.”

The 2015 Countdown Summit was organized in collaboration with ‘A World at School’ campaign, which announced a network of 500 youth ambassadors from 80 countries who will join the UN Youth Advocacy Group for the UN Global Education First Initiative to promote learning for all. The youth ambassadors are expected to highlight the need for urgent education action at a June takeover of the African Union (AU) on the Day of the African Child.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/un-secretary-general-global-leaders-urge-action-on-education/>

UNCTAD Hosts Second Geneva Dialogue on Post-2015

4 April 2014



The UN Conference on Trade and Development hosted the second in its series of Geneva Dialogues, engaging Member States, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector in informal discussions around trade and the post-2015 development agenda. This meeting, titled 'The Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda: The Road from Bali,' considered how trade can be an enabler of inclusive and sustainable development.

The Second Geneva Dialogue, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 4 April 2014, highlighted the importance of ongoing trade discussions in two processes: the negotiations for a post-2015 development agenda, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) post-Bali processes addressing follow-up to the Doha Development Round. Mukhisa Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary-General, said "We have to try to find synergies between the two processes to maximize their impact on economic development." Kituyi also called for country positions to be coherent between

the post-2015 and post-Bali processes.

Speakers highlighted linkages between trade and development issues, referring to trade as an "enabler" of development and a necessary component of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "Trade should be recognized more broadly as a development policy instrument," said Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Participants also referred to trade as a cross-cutting dynamic and an underlying foundation for the SDGs, as it is able to lift people out of poverty and create better standards of living. Discussions explored ways to create synergies between the trade and sustainable development negotiations, and to make sure that the two processes do not contradict each other.

The meeting follows UNCTAD's First Geneva Dialogue in November 2013, in which participants called for Geneva-based trade experts to contribute to the post-2015 development agenda process.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/unctad-hosts-second-geneva-dialogue-on-post-2015>

UN Paper Highlights Structural Transformation for African Development Goals

March 2014



"Structural transformation is both a goal and a necessity to adequately finance, achieve and sustain development goals in the African context" and should include developmental governance, environmental sustainability and equitable development, according to a publication by the UN Millennium Campaign Africa and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Service for Africa.

'Structural Transformation and the Challenge of Financing Africa's Post-2015 Development Agenda' argues for a paradigm shift from a culture of dependence on external resources and leadership to greater reliance on domestic institutions and resources. It proposes African goals, targets and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda.

The paper explains Africa's experience with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Structural Adjustment Programmes, which have tackled absolute poverty but not addressed Africa's dependence. This contributes to Africa's desire for a transformational agenda, it notes.

The paper is a synthesis of discussions among African parliamentarians, civil society organizations and others at a meeting hosted by the Pan-African Parliament. As part of the effort to develop a shared African narrative on the post-2015 agenda, the Parliament also will host a 'Pan-African Conference on Inequalities in the Context of Structural Transformation,' in April 2014, which is a follow-up to the final meeting of the UN-led global thematic consultation on Addressing Inequalities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in February 2013.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/un-paper-highlights-structural-transformation-for-african-development-goals/>

Global Updates

IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings Emphasize Climate Change, Sustainable Development

13 April 2014



The Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group (WBG) brought together officials, academics, practitioners, and journalists from around the world for a series of meetings and events, many of which held climate change and sustainable development in special focus.

The joint World Bank-IMF Development Committee, held on 12 April 2014, resulted in the Development Committee Communiqué, which acknowledges the WBG's progress on implementing its strategy for ending extreme poverty.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) organized and chaired a meeting of multilateral development banks (MDBs) and the IMF, on 11 April. At the meeting, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon gave a progress update on the UN's work toward a post-2015 development agenda; he was hopeful the sustainable development goals (SDGs) would be agreed over the next few months.

The seven MDBs at the meeting (EIB, African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Inter-American Development

Bank (IDB), Islamic Development Bank, and the WBG) and the IMF expressed their readiness to support the UN as it maps out the SDGs. They further pledged to organize a summit on the sidelines of the 2015 Spring Meetings dedicated to giving the UN concrete proposals for its work on sustainable development and for mobilizing the necessary finance.

Apart from the meeting of MDBs, Ban met with executive directors and senior managers of the IDB to discuss the SDGs and climate change. Building on a history of collaboration with the UN, IDB officials expressed their willingness to strengthen cooperation.

A meeting of finance ministers with the heads of the WBG and IMF, and Secretary-General Ban also convened on 11 April, focusing on practical fiscal policies, carbon pricing, private sector regulation, public procurement rules, and efficiency standards. These ministers convene twice a year to discuss the risks climate change poses to the world economy and potential actions.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/imfworld-bank-spring-meetings-emphasize-climate-change-sustainable-development/>

South-South Forum Discusses New Models of Development Cooperation

13 April 2014



The Third High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development, held in Hong Kong, China, addressed new models and mechanisms for regional cooperation and public-private partnerships. A Chair's summary will feed into the UN General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Event on the Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, taking place in May.

The Forum had as its theme 'South-South Cooperation, ICT and Financing for Sustainable Development,' and was convened by the South-South Steering Committee for Sustainable Development (SS-SCSD).

In opening remarks, John Ashe, UNGA President, noted that achievement of future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be accelerated by spearheading action on existing goals and targets on information and communication technology (ICT) for development, such as by significantly increasing access to telecommunication services and providing 100% internet access to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by 2020.

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) launched the SS-SCSD at its Operational Activities for Development Segment in February 2014.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/south-south-forum-discusses-new-models-of-development-cooperation/>

EU, China Discuss Climate Change, Post-2015 Development Agenda

31 March 2014



The EU and China recognized the need to strengthen climate change cooperation in preparing “a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force” under the UNFCCC to be adopted in 2015 in Paris. They also addressed efforts to promote sustainable development and formulate the post-2015 development agenda.

Xi Jinping, President of China, Herman Van Rompuy, European Council President, and José Manuel Barroso, European Commission President, met in Brussels, Belgium on 31 March-1 April 2014. Further on climate change, the EU and China both reiterated their commitment to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) through verifiable domestic action, and to present their contributions well in advance of the Paris meeting.

Both the EU and China also underscored: the importance of multilateralism and the central role of the UN in international affairs; their commitment to enhanced cooperation on the environment, regional development, urban-rural integration and governance systems; the importance of the EU-China urbanization partnership as a key instrument to promote sustainable development; and their respective development policies, including efforts to formulate and implement the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The EU and China also reaffirmed their commitment to their partnership through implementation of the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation, and agreed to review its implementation at the next annual EU-China Summit.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/eu-china-discuss-climate-change-post-2015-development-agenda/>

African Leaders Discuss Inclusive, Transformative Development

30 March 2014



African ministers discussed the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 and emphasized the importance of inclusive, transformative development throughout the region, at back-to-back meetings in Abuja, Nigeria.

The 15th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM 15) of UN agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the AU and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) took place on 28-30 March 2014, under the theme ‘UN support for Africa's integration in the context of the AU's Agenda 2063.’ Four panel discussions took place on: Africa's integration; peace and security; resilience and social development; and infrastructure and trade.

Speaking at the meeting, Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General, described the RCM as an important mechanism for coordinating African

regional preparations, such as on the post-2015 development agenda, and for enabling the UN to understand and support African priorities.

RCM 15 also considered: a progress report on the RCM's activities; the second triennial review of the AU's Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, the Regional Development Cooperation Framework, including resource mobilization; and building synergy between the RCM and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Africa Working Group.

The Seventh Joint Annual Meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance convened on 29-30 March 2014, under the theme, ‘Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development of Africa.’ Ministers emphasized the importance of raising productivity and increasing employment in the agricultural, manufacturing and modern services

sectors, including through local innovation, upgrading local skills, reviving development banking and technology transfer.

In a progress report to the meeting, the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa summarized the panel's findings. In addition, the AU and UNECA launched the Economic Report on

Africa 2014, 'Dynamic Industrial Policy in Africa: Innovative Institutions, Effective Processes and Flexible Mechanisms,' which focuses on how to enhance industrialization and structural transformation.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/african-leaders-discuss-inclusive-transformative-development/>

India, China Boycott High-level Meeting on Global Partnership

17 April 2014

India and China boycotted a high-level meeting on global partnership for development cooperation as the two major economies had concerns over the conference's approach to South-South cooperation and the binding nature of the meeting's outcome document.

The first High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) was held in Mexico City on April 15.

The two-day meeting brought together over 1,500 participants - including heads of State and Government, ministers, parliamentarians and leaders from international organisations, business, civil society and foundations - and built on commitments made at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in 2011 in Busan, Korea.

The global partnership was created at the Busan meeting and had aimed to bring together aid donors and recipients, emerging economies, civil society organisations, private sector companies and foundations in the hope of eradicating poverty through better cooperation.

India and China, however, boycotted the meeting. Sources here told PTI that both India and China had specific issues of concern on aspects relating to developing countries especially with regards to South-South cooperation.

The two sides were also concerned that the Mexico High Level Meeting Communique, adopted after the meeting concluded, would become a "binding input" to UN processes especially when all member states were not present at the meeting.

Even the G-77 bloc, a critical grouping of 133 developing nations, did not participate in the

meeting due to concerns with certain provisions of South-South cooperation.

The Mexico communique also noted that to achieve global development, the international community must "muster" political will for "bold and sustained action" for shared development, improved gender equality, and the promotion and protection of human rights.

Sources pointed out that India has always maintained that poverty eradication should be the main pillar of global development, which should not be linked with issues like human rights protection.

The communique noted that the principles, commitments, actions and working arrangements agreed in the outcome document of the Busan forum and in the Mexico meeting shall be references for South-South partners on a voluntary basis.

The outcome document noted that the results of the GPEDC meeting would be submitted as "inputs" to "all convergent intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder processes", including the UN Development Cooperation Forum, the UN International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the UN deliberations to devise the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Sources said India had concerns over these aspects of the communique since it linked the messages and results of the GPEDC meeting to other UN processes.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-china-boycott-high-level-meeting-on-global-partnership/>

Voices



“The post-2015 development agenda will require a comprehensive financing framework that ensures the mobilization of financial resources and their effective use for sustainable development. We need a comprehensive strategy that incorporates all forms of financing, including public and private, domestic and international.”

Martin Sajdik, president of ECOSOC, emphasized at a meeting with Bretton Woods entities on 14 April 2014. He further remarked that policymakers should think creatively about how to appropriately incentivize investors to contribute to sustainable development, adding that an effective post-2015 development agenda, with poverty eradication and sustainable development at its core, should be based on a strengthened global partnership.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1404/S00157/un-officials-seek-financing-of-sustainable-development.htm>

“The role of trade in the post-2015 agenda process should not be reduced simply to trade liberalization. Rather, trade should be recognized more broadly as a development policy instrument.”

Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, called for trade to be "an integral factor" in the post-2015 development agenda in the UNCTAD Second Geneva Dialogue on April 4th.

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=717&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20and%20Post-2015%20Agenda



“Some companies pointed that the post-2015 process is business critical and that the private sector ought to look beyond financial risk and also consider environmental and social risk. At the same time, it was noted that partnerships themselves must have built-in governance mechanisms to ensure monitoring, accountability and transparency and good examples of such mechanisms were introduced.”



Mr. Collin Beck, vice-president of UNGA, summarised after the General Assembly and ECOSOC joint thematic forum on partnerships on 10 April 2014. He emphasized that while the implementation of the post 2015 agenda rests on the governments, it is essential that public private partnerships should complement each other. Concrete ideas on solutions of development in the areas of food, nutrition and marine resources, and sustainable infrastructure were discussed.

https://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/pdf/statements/04102014Closing%20of%20Partnerships%20TD_final.pdf



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