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25 July 2014

UNDP China Global Issues Newsletter

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UN Headquarters Updates

OWG Concludes Work, Submits SDG Proposal to UNGA

14-19 July 2014



The UN General Assembly's Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

has concluded its work, adopting by acclamation a report containing 17 proposed SDGs and 169 targets. The proposal will be submitted to the UN General Assembly for consideration and action at its 68th session.

OWG 13 took place at UN headquarters in New York, US, starting on 14 July and ending one day late, on 19 July, after overnight negotiations. Among the issues delaying and threatening a consensus outcome toward the end of the week were: climate change; sexual and reproductive health and rights; and peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, and accountable and inclusive institutions. Extended consideration was also given throughout the week to

the Goals' means of implementation, proposed references to foreign occupation, and fossil fuel subsidies.

In the final session to consider the revised draft, numerous delegations expressed appreciation and admiration for the Co-Chairs, Macharia Kamau of Kenya and Csaba of Hungary. Some also thanked civil society for its attention, presence and support throughout the OWG process. Governments recorded their reservations on several elements of the proposal, with many noting that discussion on the outcome would continue in the course of developing the post-2015 development agenda.

Source: <http://uncsd.iisd.org/news/owg-concludes-work-submits-sdg-proposal-to-unga/>

Experts Discuss Transition from MDGs to SDGs

9 July 2014



The UN Development Programme (UNDP) hosted a panel discussion on the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at UN Headquarters in New York, US, on 9 July 2014.

Welcoming participants, Magdy Martínez-Solimán, UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), recalled the launch on 1 July of the 2014 MDG report, noting that gaps remain in the areas of slums, gender equality, fair trade, maternal health, food security and environment. He said UNDP soon will launch a campaign for the final 500 days of the MDGs.

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, highlighted extreme poverty and preventable conflicts and disasters as key areas where MDG progress has not been sufficient. She said UNDP, the designated “scorekeeper” for the MDGs, is preparing for the SDGs by building baselines and assessing data availability. UNDP is also: designing a “second-generation” acceleration mechanism for the SDGs, building on the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF); piloting illustrative SDGs in several countries; and conducting dialogues in over 50 countries on implementing the SDGs.

Source: <http://uncsd.iisd.org/news/experts-discuss-transition-from-mdgs-to-sdgs/>

UNGA President Releases Concept Note on Post-2015 Stocktaking Event

30 June 2014



30 June 2014:

The Office of

the President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) has released a concept note for the High-level Stocktaking Event on the post-2015 development agenda, taking place on 8-9 September 2014, in New York, US. The event is expected to result in a President's Summary, which will be presented to the UN Secretary-General as an input to his synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda.

According to the note, the stocktaking event has four key aims. It will reflect on key messages from all the high-level events, thematic debates and interactive dialogues convened by UNGA President John Ashe during the 67th session of the UNGA. Second, participants will discuss the outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20) processes, including: the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs); the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF); the Structured Dialogues on a Technology Facilitation Mechanism; and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The event further aims to highlight internal processes and events that have an impact on the post-2015 agenda's design, such as the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA) and the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR). Finally, it will seek to highlight external processes and events that have an impact on the post-2015 agenda's design and implementation.

The two-day event is expected to include interactive multi-stakeholder presentations and roundtables.

Source: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/unga-president-releases-concept-note-on-post-2015-stocktaking-event/>

UN Report Highlights MDG Targets Within Reach

7 July 2014



Many of the currently unfulfilled Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets are within reach by 2015, according to 'The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014.' The report provides updates on progress toward fulfilling the MDGs and their targets at global and regional levels. Launching the report, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon underscored that "achievements have been uneven between goals, among and within regions and countries and between population groups."

The report highlights that several targets have already been met: world poverty has been reduced by half since 1990; 2.3 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water; and countries

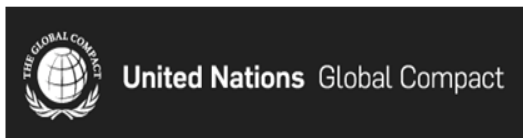
have achieved gender parity in primary school. It also finds "great progress" on political participation by women, access to technologies, reduction of average tariffs and debt relief. If trends continue, the world will surpass MDG targets on hunger and malaria, tuberculosis and access to HIV.

The report is based on a master set of data that has been compiled by an Inter-agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators led by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Secretariat.

Source: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/un-report-highlights-mdg-targets-within-reach/>

UN-Secretary-General Meets with Business, Investors, Governments on Post-2015 Development Agenda

2 July 2014



The 2014 UN Global Compact Board meeting,

chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, focused on key priorities, including ongoing work to improve good governance, scale up corporate sustainability, and advance the private sector's role in the post-2015 development agenda. In his remarks to the Board, which held its biannual meeting at UN Headquarters in New York, US, on 2 July 2014, Ban said 2015 marks the 15th anniversary of the Global Compact, which is "the first and only public-private initiative of the UN based on network governance."

Noting the elevation of post-2015 priorities on business agendas worldwide, Ban explained that 2014 is the year to lay the groundwork for success in 2015 regarding: achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); adopting a new climate agreement;

and establishing "a new vision for a sustainable future." He said one of his priorities is to scale up the UN's capacity to engage in transformative actions with the private sector, civil society, philanthropy and academia. He proposed establishing a UN Partnership Facility to help fill UN capacity gaps and take partnerships to scale.

The Global Compact introduced a white paper, titled 'The Role of Business and Finance in Supporting the Post-2015 Agenda', which showcases five implementation mechanisms to scale up the private sector's contribution: small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); partnerships; transparency and accountability; enabling government policies; and private sustainability finance.

Source: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/un-secretary-general-meets-with-business-investors-governments-on-post-2015-development-agenda/>

UN Secretary-General Reports on GSDR Scope, Methodology

20 June 2014



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon published a report on 'Options for the scope and methodology for a global sustainable development report' (GSDR) (E/2014/87). The report was prepared pursuant to UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which it said should strengthen the science-policy interface by bringing together diverse information and assessments, including in the form of a GSDR.

The report puts forward several options for the scope and methodology for a GSDR, based on responses from several Member States and UN entities to a questionnaire on the subject. The options also draw on lessons learned from a multi-stakeholder process to produce a prototype edition of a GSDR, in order to illustrate the potential content and process for such a report.

The report also acknowledges crowd-sourcing as a useful tool for identifying emerging issues that scientists recommend decision makers consider for action. As the issues identified through crowd-sourcing were found to differ significantly from issues highlighted in expert group meetings and from issues identified by researchers, a GSDR might benefit from encouraging a wide range of participation through multiple channels.

According to the report, case studies illustrate the benefits of integrated approaches focusing on issue clusters, rather than sectors or themes, as they can help in identifying innovative solutions.

Source: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/un-secretary-general-reports-on-gsdr-scope-methodology/>

Global Updates

BRICS to establish development bank, reserve arrangement

14-16 July 2014 Brazil



The group of five emerging markets countries known as the BRICS wrapped up its annual summit Wednesday with a gathering of South-American leaders, a day after the group launched its own development bank and reserve fund.

The emerging-market bloc of BRICS have announced plans to establish a development bank (NDB) and contingent reserve arrangement (CRA). The NDB, to be headquartered in Shanghai, will have an initial authorized capital of 100 billion U.S. dollars, and its initial subscribed capital of 50 billion dollars will be equally shared among founding members, according to the Fortaleza Declaration.

The five countries decided that the first chair of the Board of Governors shall be from Russia, the first chair of the Board of Directors from Brazil, and the

first president of the bank from India. They also agreed to set up an African regional center of the NDB in South Africa, which will be established concurrently with the headquarters.

The CRA, with an initial size of 100 billion dollars, "will have a positive precautionary effect, help countries forestall short-term liquidity pressures, promote further BRICS cooperation, strengthen the global financial safety net and complement existing international arrangements," it added.

In addition, the five countries also voiced their readiness to further facilitate trade, enhance financial ties, tackle tax-related challenges and tap the cooperation potential in insurance and reinsurance markets.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-07/16/c_126757333.htm

ECOSOC and HLPF Adopt Ministerial Declaration

9 July 2014 New York, US



The 2014 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which convened under the auspices of the Council (HLPF 2), adopted a Ministerial Declaration on 9 July 2014, after three weeks of informal intergovernmental negotiations, in New York, US.

In regard to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the text underlines the central role of a strengthened global partnership for development, while recognizing the importance of national ownership. It also emphasizes that national efforts need to be assisted by international support and an enabling international environment, paired with the mobilization and effective use of all resources - public and private, domestic and international.

The Declaration reiterates that, in arriving at an inclusive and people-centered post-2015 development agenda, governments look forward to a transparent intergovernmental process that will include inputs from all stakeholders, including civil society, scientific and knowledge institutions, parliaments, local authorities and the private sector.

In the section dedicated to the post-2015 development agenda, the Declaration reaffirms all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR).

Source: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/ecosoc-and-hlpf-adopt-ministerial-declaration/>

EU, UNEP Strengthen Collaboration on Environment, Climate Change

25 June 2014 Nairobi, Kenya



The European Commission and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that lays the foundation for continued collaboration on environment and climate change issues.

The MOU outlines the cooperation the two parties will undertake to protect the environment and prevent climate change, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication goals. The agreement is one response to the outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), held in June 2012. It will help ensure the environment is considered in national policy-making for all sectors and

consolidate the parties' approach to implementing the post-2015 agenda on the regional and global levels.

The agreement expresses the shared priorities of the two parties, which have a long history of collaborating in the fields of "biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, water resources, sound chemicals and waste management, environmental monitoring and assessment, strengthening environment governance at the global, regional and national levels," according to UNEP. The European Commission will provide €9 million annually over the next seven years in support of UNEP's work.

Source: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/eu-unep-strengthen-collaboration-on-environment-climate-change/>

DCF Discusses Role of Development Cooperation in Post-2015 Agenda

10-11 July New York, US



Development cooperation must adapt to play a key role in implementing the post-2015 development agenda, according to participants at the 2014 session of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF). The DCF took place on the theme, 'Bringing the future of development cooperation to post 2015.

The DCF considered: how a global partnership for development beyond 2015 could work in practice; implications of a post-2015 agenda for development cooperation; and ways to enhance national and global accountability and monitoring of development cooperation. The Forum also aimed to advance policy dialogue and actions on common challenges by Southern development cooperation partners. The Forum discussed these topics through keynote addresses and panels.

Participants recognized the importance of working towards the official development assistance (ODA)

target of 0.7% while also finding and developing other sources of financing to support implementation of the post-2015 agenda, such as domestic resource mobilization, a renewed global partnership for development and private sector engagement. Participants also stressed the importance of increasing the effectiveness of existing resources.

The Forum's two-day meeting took place in New York, US, on 10-11 July 2014, following ECOSOC's 2014 High-level Segment, and a summary of its findings is expected. The Forum also will serve as an input to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Source: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/DCF-discusses-role-of-development-cooperation-in-post-2015-agenda/>

21st Session of UNESCO-IHP Provides Post-2015 Input

8 July 2014 Paris, France



The 21st session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) met from 18-20 June 2014, adopting decisions, including on the post-2015 development agenda and the establishment of water-related centres, and reviewing past activities.

The meeting, which took place in Paris, France, brought together the 36 member States of the Council, as well as 55 non-member State delegations, in addition to representations from the UN system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Key outcomes included adoption of resolutions: recommending water as a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG); endorsing the World's

Large Rivers Initiative (WRLI); approving elements for the establishment the UNESCO category 1 Institute, HIDROEX International Institute for Education, Capacity Building and Applied Research; and endorsing establishment of six category 2 water-related centres, including the African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ARCE) in Ethiopia, the Central Laboratory for Environmental Monitoring (CLEQM) in Egypt, the Integrated and Multi-Disciplinary Water Resources Management Center in Greece, the Water Research Centre in Kuwait, the International Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions in Iran, and the Regional Water Research Centre (RWRC) in Pakistan.

Source: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/21st-session-of-unesco-ihp-provides-post-2015-input/>

First UNEA Session Adopts Resolutions and Decisions

27 June 2014 Nairobi, Kenya



The first session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) concluded with delegates from 160 countries adopting a decision and resolutions on, inter alia: strengthening the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) role in promoting air quality; the science-policy interface (SPI); ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA); implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; illegal trade in wildlife; chemicals and waste; and marine debris and microplastics. UNEA took place from 23-27 June 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya.

UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, noted that the resolutions agreed by Member States at UNEA would "help shape the global environmental agenda" and determine collaborative action on priority issues. In a press release on the meeting, UNEP highlighted

that this first session of UNEA would determine its relevance in the international setting and define UNEP's ability to address the world's greatest environmental challenges.

In coordination with the session, UNEP launched six publications addressing: South-South trade in renewable energy; plastics; UNEP's 2013 performance; environmental crime; emerging issues for small island developing states (SIDS); and 'Our Planet,' which focused on UNEA. In addition, UNCTAD launched the 'World Investment Report 2014,' which presents an action plan for investing in the forthcoming SDGs.

Source: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/def-discusses-role-of-development-cooperation-in-post-2015-agenda/>

Voices



“We are now poised for the crucial next phase of human development – a universal post-2015 sustainable development agenda. That agenda needs a strong voice for the environment – and now it has it, thanks to the wisdom of UN Member States meeting in 2012 at the Rio +20 UN Summit meeting on Sustainable Development.”

On the first UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi Kenya on 27 June. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, addressed delegates on issues relating to the overarching theme of the meeting, ‘Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

Source: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2014/sgsm15981.doc.htm>

“There is now no time to lose. There is substantial unfinished business from the MDGs, which must carry through to the post-2015 agenda. But with clear goals and targets, strong national and local ownership, focused action plans, and capacity built for implementation, mountains can be moved to achieve the MDGs and future SDGs. We count on the efforts and support of all Member States to this end.”

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, made opening speech on 9 July, at the UNDP Side Event on Accelerating Progress, Sustaining Results: Transitioning from MDGs to SDGs, at United Nations, New York.

Source: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/07/09/helen-clark-opening-speech-at-the-undp-side-event-on-accelerating-progress-sustaining-results-transitioning-from-mdgs-to-sdgs/>



“The last 250 years have delivered tremendous development, progress, technology, science, and wealth, all of which have improved our living standards. But if you look at it from the perspective of the 7 million people dying prematurely a year because of air pollution, or you look at that notion of GDP and economic growth for just a handful of people holding as much wealth of our economy as half of humanity. then we are confronted with fundamental challenges that speak to why we are having meeting after meeting, and conference after conference to ask ourselves, “What we are doing wrong?”

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner delivered opening remarks on 23 June, at the first Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP.



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